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WILLIAM

Walk behind Queen's coffin brought back memories of my mother's funeral

by REBECCA ENGLISH
ROYAL EDITOR

AN EMOTIONAL Prince William revealed yesterday that walking behind the Queen's coffin had reminded him of his mother Princess Diana's funeral.

The Prince of Wales spoke of how 'difficult' it had been to join the procession carrying Her Majesty to lie in state at Westminster on Wednesday.

He also described the Queen as 'everyone's grandmother' and thanked well-wishers for their condolences as he viewed the sea of flowers left at Sandringham in Norfolk.

When one woman told him she was close to tears, he replied: 'Don't cry now – you'll start me.'

William's heartfelt words came as full details were revealed of the Queen's State Funeral on Monday, which the Duke of Norfolk said would 'unite people across the globe'.

FULL STORY – PAGES 2 & 3

INSIDE your definitive four-page guide to Monday's final goodbye

Picture: TOBY MELVILLE / PA WIRE

Don't cry, said William, or you will start me...

By **Ryan Hooper** and **Andrew Levy**

THE Prince of Wales yesterday shared emotional conversations with well-wishers – telling one not to cry as it would cause him to start crying too.

William and the Princess of Wales spent around 50 minutes viewing a sea of flowers left in memory of the Queen at Sandringham, as more than 1,000 people waited patiently to greet them.

The heir thanked the crowd for their kind words about the Queen, whom he described as 'everyone's grandmother'.

He told people that walking behind the Queen's coffin from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall on Wednesday had brought back painful memories of his mother's funeral 25 years ago.

He and Harry were just 15 and 12 when they walked behind Diana's coffin during her funeral procession alongside their father, King Charles, and grandfather Prince Philip.

After meeting William yesterday, Jane Wells, 54, from Long Sutton in Lincolnshire, told the Daily Mail: 'I just gave him my condolences and said how much his mother would have been proud of him.

'And he said how difficult it had been, and that Wednesday and walking behind the coffin had reminded him of his mother's funeral. He also described the Queen as everyone's grandmother, which was lovely.'

Another crowd member at the Norfolk estate told the prince she was close to tears, to which he replied: 'Don't cry now – you'll start me.'

William also told one group of well-wishers: 'It's very moving. I find reading the notes quite hard actually, especially the children's notes. They get me every time.'

The Princess of Wales was full of emotion too. Recalling her conversation with Kate, Fran Morgan, 62, said: 'She said she couldn't believe how many cards and flowers there were. But she also said, "I can't read them all or I would cry".'

Kate welled up as she accompanied a schoolgirl to lay flowers on the sea of tributes. William had to put a steadying hand on her shoulder as the princess continued chatting with families as the royal cars arrived.

'The children's notes ... they get me every time'

She told one mourner their children, George, Charlotte and Louis, 'were doing well and were being looked after at school'.

The children all started at Lambrook School in Berkshire, near Kate and William's new home, Adelaide Cottage, last week.

The prince's conversation with 58-year-old Karen Rose, from nearby North Wootton, drew laughter from the crowd.

Mrs Rose said her mother loved him, and presented him with some sunflowers. The royal replied: 'I never get flowers – they are very healthy looking.' He then joked: 'You'll be giving me your number next, Karen.'

Mrs Rose later told the Mail: 'He was joking, saying he never got flowers, so everyone's hands shot up giving them their bouquets. It was lovely to meet the future king and to shake his hand – but I just wish I'd taken the price tag off. They were £6 from Tesco. I was trying to pick the sticker off but I didn't do it in time.'

Charlotte Twinn, 23, from Cambridge, said: 'I got some flowers from the supermarket – chrysanthemums – which Kate ended up taking. It was amazing really, and she was really nice. I just wish I'd gone to the florists though.'

Anita Crawthorne, 70, from King's Lynn, said: 'You can smell the flowers from well down the avenue. It is amazing.

Last week, the vice president of the Sandringham Women's Institute branch, where the Queen was a member for nearly 80 years, said it will 'never be the same' following her death.

Yvonne Browne said the Queen became 'one of us' as she sang songs and handed out prizes. 'For the two hours of a meeting, she was one of the ladies,' Mrs Browne said. 'She had her table with three other ladies, she used to pour tea and offer them cakes.'

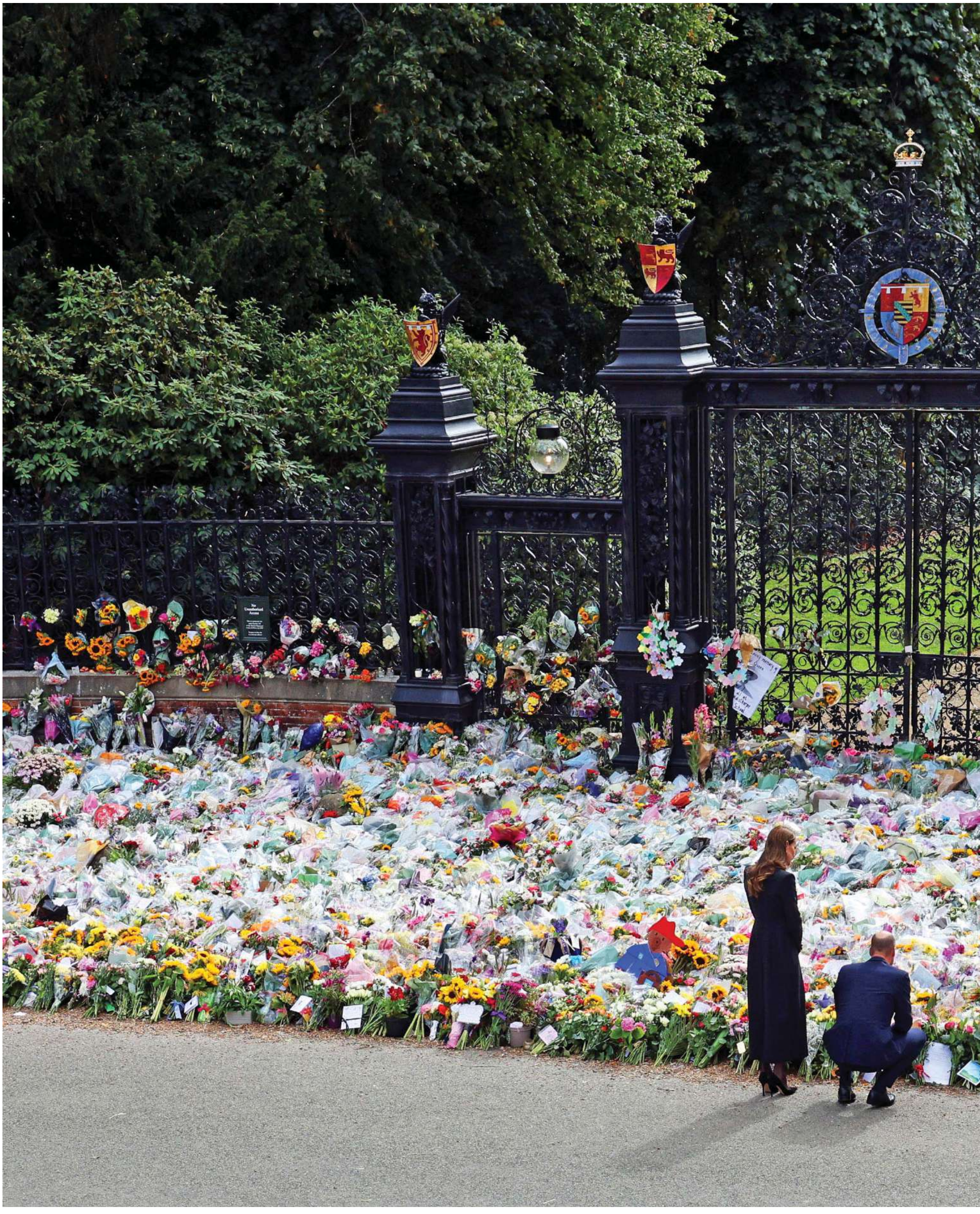
Picture: JOE GIDDENS/PA WIRE

'I can't read all the messages. I would just cry'

KATE YESTERDAY

Picture: CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY

Heartfelt words: Kate and William spend time reading touching notes left by members of the public at Sandringham yesterday in honour of the Queen's passing



Dwarfed by a host of tributes: The Prince and Princess of Wales share a quiet moment in front of a sea of bouquets outside Sandringham's

Picture: PAUL MARRIOTT

Norwich Gates yesterday, taking around 50 minutes to read the touching messages. The pair were greeted by a crowd of at least 1,000 people

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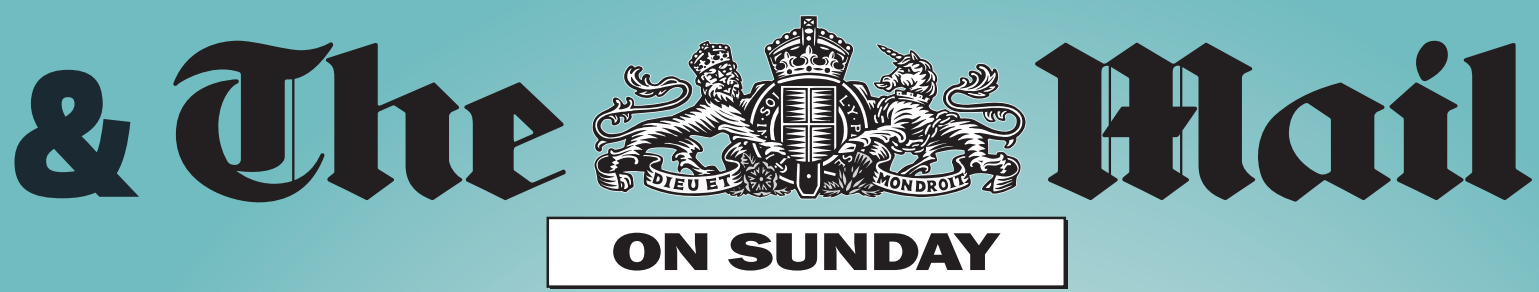

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Laid to rest alongside Philip and the parents

By **Rebecca English**
Royal Editor

AS Britain's longest-serving monarch, she would have been entitled to take her place alongside other kings and queens in the Royal Vault at St George's Chapel.

Instead, the Queen's wishes were far more simple, and deeply touching.

On Monday evening her coffin will finally be interred in a private ceremony at the King George VI Memorial Chapel at Windsor alongside her beloved Philip, who died last April at the age of 99 after 73 years of marriage.

Alongside them will be the Queen's adored parents, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, as well as her sister, Princess Margaret.

It means the family that 'Bertie' – George's nickname – always affectionately referred to as 'us four' is reunited again.

The late king died in February 1952 at the age of just 56 – a moment the Queen always marked privately at her Sandringham estate – and the Queen Mother at the age of 101 in March 2002. The Queen had only just lost her sister, Princess Margaret, the previous month the age of 71.

Their remains are interred in the King George VI Memorial Chapel – a tiny family annexe built on the north side of St George's Chapel. King George's coffin had been originally placed in the Royal Vault but, because it was his wish to rest in his own chapel with his wife when her time came, a memorial chapel that bears his name was built by his eldest daughter in 1969, the only structural addition to St George's Chapel since the 1500s.

The burial service in the Chapel will be deeply private

The central feature of the pale stone memorial annexe, is a black stone slab set into the floor. The slab bears the inscriptions King George VI 1895-1952 and Elizabeth 1900-2002 in gold lettering.

The ashes of Princess Margaret were initially placed in the Royal Vault, before being moved to the George VI Memorial Chapel with her parents' coffins when the Queen Mother died weeks later. The princess wanted to be cremated because she found the alternative royal burial ground at Frogmore in Windsor Great Park too 'gloomy', according to her lifelong friend, Lady Glenconner.

The casket containing Margaret's ashes was placed in a space to one side, with a bronze plaque.

The King George VI Memorial Chapel was often a place for private contemplation for the Queen, who would visit it when she worshipped at St George's Chapel.

A 'deeply personal' private burial service will be conducted by the Dean of Windsor at 7.30pm, of which no further details will be given according to the wishes of King Charles and his family.

With no cameras present, the Royal Family will gather at the Deanery just after 7pm, before being escorted to the memorial chapel where both the coffins of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will have already been placed after being bought up from the Royal Vault. As the memorial chapel can be entered directly from the Quire, there is no need for the coffins to be brought outside.

Overnight on Monday the name of the Queen and her husband will, according to previous plans, be added to the chapel on a specially created ledger stone – their memories entwined in death, as in life. It is anticipated that the Chapel will be opened to members of the public the next day to pay their respects, free of charge – but this has yet to be confirmed by Buckingham Palace. Among those buried in the Royal Vault are Kings George III, George IV and William IV. Buried elsewhere in St George's Chapel are the Queen's great-grandfather Edward VII and her grandfather George V.

Comment – Page 26

Rehearsal: Soldiers and sailors in Parliament Square last night

Escort: Beefeaters, Guardsmen and sailors marching last night

At ease: Big Ben looms over the Guards as they take a break

her beloved she adored

Many more WILL now get chance to see the last journey

By **David Churchill**
Transport Editor

THE Queen's final journey after the funeral will avoid motorways and stick to slower A-roads – giving thousands more Britons the chance to pay their last respects as her coffin passes.

The Daily Mail understands the hearse carrying her from Westminster to Windsor will not travel on the M4, which would be the quickest route.

Sources revealed last night that it will be driven on the A30 and is likely also to go on the A4. The full post-funeral route could be published as early as today so mourners can make plans.

One insider said: 'All the other royals will be going on the M4.'

Travelling along A-roads west out of London to Berkshire means it will be easier for mourners to line up and pay respects. The choice of route comes after warnings that up to 350,000 mourners are going to miss out on the opportunity to visit her lying-in-state in Westminster due to massive waits in the queue.

Former Tory Cabinet minister David Jones, who called for an extended post-funeral route, said last night: 'I think it's very important that as many people as possible have the opportunity to pay their last respects while in sight of the coffin. So it's sensible that it's not going all the way along the motorway, as people would not be able to do that there.

'It's very difficult as there are so many people who want to pay their last respects, so to maximise the amount of people who can is a good thing.' Earlier this week, the Mail's Robert Hardman outlined the case for extending the post-funeral route so more Britons could say farewell. The funeral at Westminster Abbey will finish around midday next Monday.

At 12.15pm the Queen's children and other members of the Royal Family will walk behind her coffin to Wellington Arch. It is understood that after the hearse sets off it will travel along roads to Hyde Park to give mourners an additional chance to pay respects. Large screens will be set up in the park for people to watch the service. The hearse will arrive at the Long Walk, Windsor, at 3.15pm, where the public will also be able to say goodbye before the Queen is laid to rest next to her beloved husband Prince Philip.

The blueprint for the procession is based on the one used for the Queen Mother who was buried in Windsor in 2002. The route taken from London to Northamptonshire after Princess Diana's funeral in 1997 was lengthened at the 11th hour due to the huge outpouring of grief over her death.

The night before the service at Westminster Abbey her coffin was moved from St James's Palace to her old home at Kensington Palace, adding an extra mile.

It meant thousands more mourners could line the roads of London as the hearse began the trip to her Northamptonshire family home.

The Queen will lie in state in Westminster Hall until Monday's funeral, with 400,000 mourners expected to file past her coffin. But 350,000 may miss out as the queue could be closed on Saturday night if there is not enough time for those at the back to reach the front.

It's not too late to change rigid plans and let millions more of us bid the Queen farewell

Daily Mail, on Wednesday

Carriage's 123 years of history

By **Mark Nicol**

MASSED ranks of Royal Navy sailors will join the Queen on her journey to and from Westminster Abbey in a tradition dating back more than a century.

Arm in arm and marching at precisely 75 paces per minute, 138 junior ratings will accompany Queen Elizabeth II's coffin, which will be carried atop the State Gun Carriage.

A team of 98 sailors will pull on ropes attached to the carriage's front wheels, drawing the late monarch forward. To the rear, a further 40 sailors will serve as a brake.

The sight of so many sailors marching in front and behind the carriage promises to be one of Monday's most stirring sights. Not since the funeral of Lord Mountbatten in 1979 has the 123-year-old State Gun Carriage been called into action. It was used at the funerals of King Edward VII, King George V, King George VI and Sir Winston Churchill. It first appeared at Queen Victoria's 1901 funeral when horses were supposed to pull the carriage but grew restive and a team of sailors with ropes were brought in. Captain Catherine Jordan, who commands the State Ceremonial Team, said yesterday: 'People know its significance and want to get it right.'

More than 1,000 sailors and marines from around the world will take part on Monday.

Tradition: Same carriage was used to transport Queen Victoria

Huw v Tom on TV screens

HUW Edwards and Tom Bradby will go head-to-head as the BBC and ITV battle it out for viewers of their coverage of the Queen's funeral.

ITV has confirmed there will be no advertisements on its channels on Monday – putting it in direct competition with the advert-free national broadcaster.

From 9.30am, Queen Elizabeth II: The State Funeral will be hosted by Bradby, 55, and Julie Etchingham, 53, while Edwards and Fergal Keane, both 61, will present for the BBC. ITV's coverage, from 6am to midnight, will be cast on its main channel, five digital channels and ITV Hub.

Both broadcasters will air the funeral service at Westminster Abbey, the procession to Wellington Arch, the Queen's final journey and committal at Windsor.

Kirsty Young, 53, and David Dimbleby, 83, will help present the BBC's coverage, which starts at 8am, from Windsor. ITV's Mary Nightingale, 59, will report from the abbey, with royal editor Chris Ship in London and Windsor.

A fitting tribute to an

by SAM GREENHILL
CHIEF REPORTER

IT IS going to be one of the most extraordinary spectacles Britain will ever see.

The Queen's State Funeral on Monday will showcase pomp and majesty as never before.

Buckingham Palace yesterday released long-awaited details of the breathtaking sights that will captivate the country – and the entire world.

Kings, queens, presidents, heads of state, prime ministers and hundreds of VIPs from almost every nation will descend on London to honour Her Majesty, and yet they will be mere spectators.

They, with an estimated four billion people globally – including at least a million ordinary mourners lining the capital's streets – will witness the King lead his revered mother on her final journey in truly majestic style.

She will be borne by a mighty procession carving a path through central London from Westminster Abbey.

The Royal Family, the Armed Forces and hundreds of the late monarch's most senior subjects will march with her coffin.

It has been decades in the planning – with the Queen herself having played an active role in deciding the arrangements.

> *'The events of recent days are a reminder our constitution is the envy of the world'*

Unveiling the plans yesterday, the Earl Marshal, the Duke of Norfolk, who is in charge of Monday's occasion, said: 'The events of recent days are a reminder of the strength of our constitution, a system of government which in so many ways is the envy of the world.

'The Queen held a unique and timeless position in all our lives. This has been felt more keenly over the past few days, as the world comes to terms with her demise.

'Her Majesty's passing has left many people, across many continents, with a profound sense of loss. The respect, admiration and affection in which the Queen was held make our task both humbling and daunting – an honour and a great responsibility.

'It is our aim and belief that the State Funeral and events of the next few days will unite people across the globe and resonate with people of all faiths, whilst fulfilling Her Majesty and her family's wishes to pay a fitting tribute to an extraordinary reign.'

Buckingham Palace said yesterday: 'His Majesty the King and the Royal Family wish to send their sincere gratitude for the messages of condolence received from around the world.

'The Royal Family has been deeply moved by the global response and affection shown for The Queen as people join them in mourning the loss of Her Majesty.'

WITH MAJESTIC PAGEANTRY, CEREMONY THAT

1 PROCESSION TO ABBEY

10.35am **A bearer party found by The Queen's Company, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, lifts the coffin from the catafalque in Westminster Hall and carries it to the North Door. Waiting outside is the State Gun Carriage of the Royal Navy.**

■ The State Gun Carriage is a field gun carriage that has been in the care of the Royal Navy since 1901, when it was removed from active service for the funeral of Queen Victoria – and since then it has been used for the funerals of King Edward VII in 1910, King George V in 1936, King George VI in 1952, Sir Winston Churchill in 1965, and Lord Louis Mountbatten in 1979.

10.44am **Gun carriage sets off, drawn in spectacular style by 142 Royal Naval ratings.**

■ Route from New Palace Yard to Westminster Abbey will be lined by the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

■ **The procession is led by a massed pipes and drums of Scottish and Irish Regiments, the Brigade of Gurkhas and the Royal Air Force – numbering 200 musicians, followed by Pursuivants, Heralds and Kings of Arms, pictured.**

■ The gun carriage itself comes next, flanked by the bearer party comprising pall bearers from service equerries to the Queen, and detachments of The King's Body Guards of The Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, The Yeomen of the Guard and the Royal Company of Archers.

■ **Immediately behind the Queen's coffin walk the royal mourners.**

10.52am The Procession arrives at the West Gate of the Abbey.

■ **The bearer party lifts the coffin from the State Gun Carriage and carries it into the Abbey for the State Funeral Service.**

■ The doors of Westminster Abbey open at 8am for the congregation from around the world to begin taking their seats.

■ Gathering at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the world's presidents, heads of state and ambassadors, including foreign royal families, governors-general and Realm prime ministers.

■ The global VIPs travel 1.7 miles to Westminster Abbey on state buses.

■ Also in the congregation are Commonwealth representatives, recipients of the Victoria Cross and George Cross, all seven of the UK's living Prime Ministers and leaders of Parliament, emergency service chiefs and public servants.

On Parliament Square, coffin is saluted by a tri-service guard of honour. The Royal Navy, Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards and The King's Colour Squadron of the Royal Air Force – each consisting of three officers and 53 rank-and-file, and with their colours draped – conduct the honour facing the gates of New Palace Yard. A Royal Marines band accompanies the guard of honour.

SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II
Director of the Royal Collection, Comptroller, Lord Chamberlains, Master of the Household, Keeper of the Privy Purse, Private secretary, Master of the Horse, Lord and Palace Steward and The Queen's Pages

WESTMINSTER HALL TO THE ABBEY

THE proceedings get under way at 10.35am when the Queen's lying-in-state at Westminster Hall comes to an end with her coffin moved to Westminster Abbey. A company of her most senior guardsmen, the Grenadier Guards, have the honour of forming the bearer party, and will carry Her Majesty from the catafalque that hundreds of thousands of members of the public have respectfully filed past in recent days.

Waiting outside will be the State Gun Carriage, which has been in the care of the Royal Navy since it was borrowed from active service in 1901 for the funeral of Queen Victoria. This historic carriage will bear Elizabeth II on her final journey, just as it carried Victoria, and then King Edward VII in 1910, King George V in 1936, King George VI in 1952, Sir Winston Churchill in 1965, and Lord Mountbatten in 1979.

Her carriage will be drawn in magnificent style by 142 Royal Naval Ratings, and flanked by pall bearers from service equerries to the Queen, detachments of The King's Body Guards of The Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, The Yeomen of the Guard and the Royal Company of Archers.

Led by 200 musicians from the Scottish and Irish Regiments, the Brigade of Gurkhas, and the Royal Air Force, the procession will leave New Palace Yard and go around two sides of Parliament Square, where they will be saluted by a guard of honour comprising dozens of officers, soldiers, sailors and airmen.

The King, senior royals and loyal members of Her Majesty's household – right down to the pages – will march behind the coffin.

It will then arrive at Westminster Abbey's West Gate at 10.52am by way of Broad Sanctuary and the Sanctuary, which will be

extraordinary reign

WILL BRING SOLEMN CAPITAL TO A STANDSTILL

2 STATE FUNERAL

11am **State Funeral Service begins conducted by the Dean of Westminster. The Prime Minister and the Secretary General of the Commonwealth read Lessons.**

■ The Archbishop of York, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the Free Churches Moderator say prayers.

■ **Sermon is given by the Archbishop of Canterbury who also gives the Commendation. The Dean gives the Blessing.**

11.55am Last Post sounds, followed by two-minute silence.

Noon **Reveille, the National Anthem and a Lament played by the Queen's Piper brings the State Funeral Service to an end.**

■ The Bearer Party return the coffin to the State Gun Carriage.

3 PROCESSION FROM WESTMINSTER ABBEY TO WELLINGTON ARCH

Royal Canadian Mounted Police | George Cross foundations & armed forces of the Commonwealth | Royal Air Force | Army | Royal Navy & Royal Marines | STATE GUN CARRIAGE and Households | Civilian services

12.15pm **The Procession – the like of which has never been seen in most people's lifetimes – sets off for Wellington Arch at Hyde Park Corner.**

■ Guns are fired every minute in Hyde Park by The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery. Big Ben tolls throughout the procession.

■ **Hundreds of thousands of members of the public line the 1.7-mile route, along with thousands of members of the Armed Forces.**

■ The Queen's coffin is borne along Whitehall, passing the Cenotaph which is flanked by members of the Royal British Legion.

■ **At Horse Guards Parade, The King's Life Guard turn out to give a royal salute.**

■ Up The Mall and past Buckingham Palace for the final time – where The King's Guard will give a royal salute as the coffin passes.

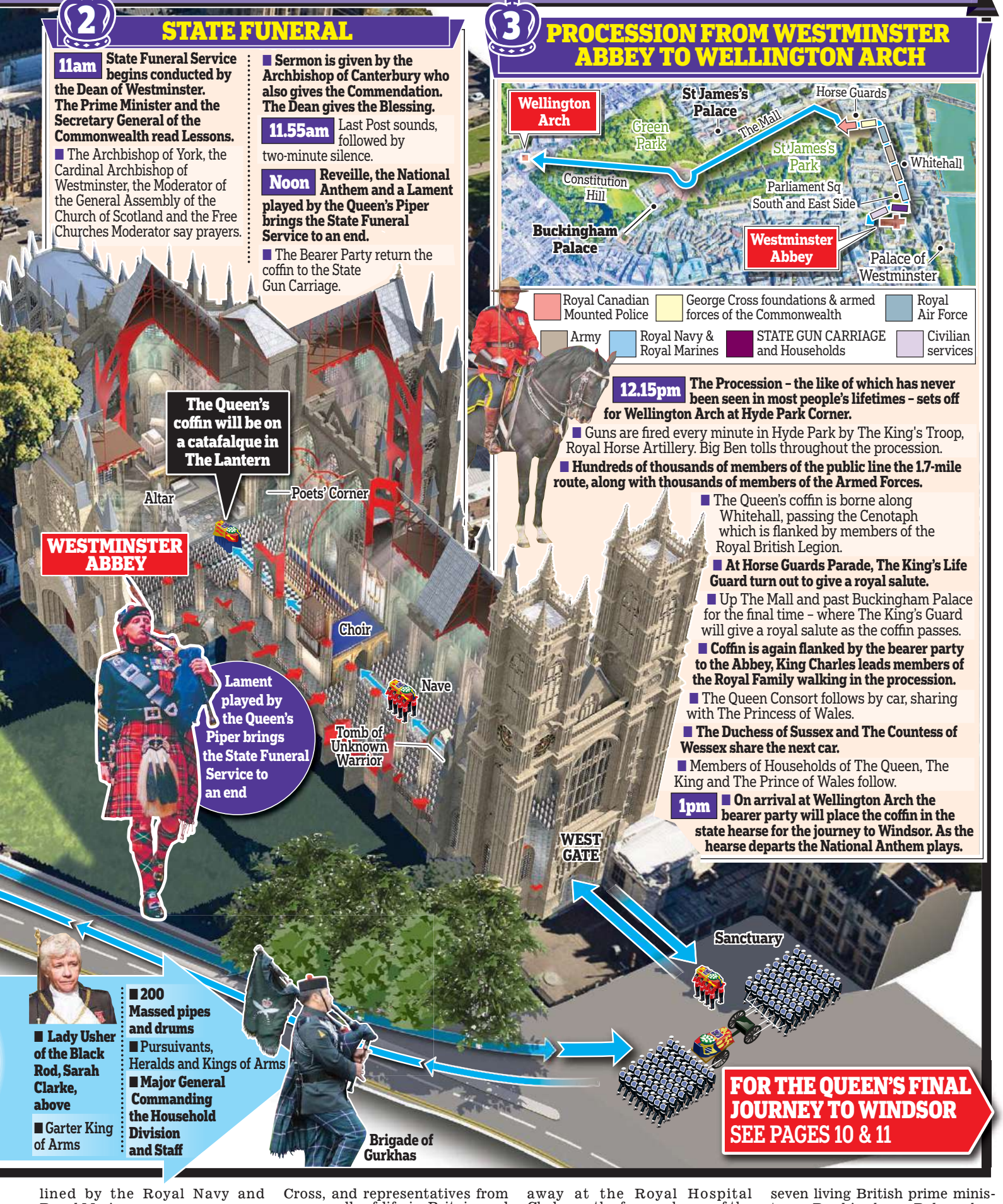
■ **Coffin is again flanked by the bearer party to the Abbey, King Charles leads members of the Royal Family walking in the procession.**

■ The Queen Consort follows by car, sharing with The Princess of Wales.

■ **The Duchess of Sussex and The Countess of Wessex share the next car.**

■ Members of Households of The Queen, The King and The Prince of Wales follow.

1pm ■ **On arrival at Wellington Arch the bearer party will place the coffin in the state hearse for the journey to Windsor. As the hearse departs the National Anthem plays.**



■ **Lady Usher of the Black Rod, Sarah Clarke, above**

■ Garter King of Arms

■ **200 Massed pipes and drums**

■ Pursuivants, Heralds and Kings of Arms

■ **Major General Commanding the Household Division and Staff**

FOR THE QUEEN'S FINAL JOURNEY TO WINDSOR SEE PAGES 10 & 11

lined by the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

BY the time the Queen's coffin arrives, the cathedral will be packed with just over 2,000 people.

It will be one of the most fascinating gatherings ever put together, ranging from global dignitaries to holders of the George Cross, and representatives from every walk of life in Britain and around the world.

Even US President Joe Biden, usually the most exalted person in any room, will be just another VIP.

The world's presidents, heads of state, prime ministers and foreign royalty will arrive at Westminster Abbey not by a fleet of limousines, but by bus. Ahead of the service, the VIPs will congregate 1.7 miles away at the Royal Hospital Chelsea – the famous home of the Chelsea Pensioners.

It is here that they will swap their usual transport for buses, which will whisk them through closed-off streets to the abbey. The doors will open at 8am for the congregation, although the most senior guests are not expected to arrive until shortly before the service. As well as political leaders, including all seven living British prime ministers, Buckingham Palace has invited members of the Queen's charities, along with police, fire, ambulance and health chiefs.

THE SERVICE

THE funeral will start at 11am and last for one hour. It will be conducted by the Dean of Westminster, with a reading by Prime Minister Liz Truss, the sermon by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and prayers by the Archbishop of York, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

At 11.55am, the Last Post will sound, followed by a two-minute silence – to be observed in the Abbey, throughout the United Kingdom and perhaps by those watching around the globe.

The service will be brought to a close at noon with the national anthem and a lament played by the Queen's Piper.

At this point, Her Majesty's coffin will be raised from the catafalque and returned to the State Gun Carriage positioned outside the West Gate.

THE PROCESSION

ONE of the most mesmerising episodes of the day is expected shortly after noon, when a magnificent procession will take the Queen on her final tour of the capital city she loved. Not since Sir Winston Churchill's State Funeral will Britons have witnessed anything like it. To the rhythm of artillery guns fired in Hyde Park every 60 seconds, and the booming toll of Big Ben, the procession will weave a 1.7-mile journey to Wellington Arch.

The King, his sons William and Harry, and his siblings Anne, Andrew and Edward will all march behind the gun carriage. Her Majesty the Queen Consort will follow behind by car, accompanied by the Princess of Wales. The car behind them will be shared by Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, and Sophie, Countess of Wessex.

The coffin will be flanked by The King's Body Guards of The Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, The Yeomen of the Guard and the Royal Company of Archers.

Hundreds of thousands of members of the public will line the route. As the Queen's coffin is borne along Whitehall, it will pass the Cenotaph which will be flanked by standard bearers mustered by the Royal British Legion. At Horse Guards Parade, members of The King's Life Guard will give a royal salute.

It goes along The Mall and then past Buckingham Palace for the final time, where The King's Guard will turn out in the forecourt to salute as she passes the Queen Victoria Memorial.

It will be a tremendous parade, with seven separate sections, each supported by a military band.

Mourners will see Mounties from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. There will be several detachments from the British Armed Forces.

Representatives of the George Cross foundations will take pride of place. They include Malta – the entire island nation was awarded the George Cross for heroism in the Second World War – and those who served with such bravery in the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Loyal members of the Queen's household past and present will also march with her coffin.

WELLINGTON ARCH

AT 1pm, the procession will arrive at Wellington Arch, and form up to witness the departure of the Queen from London.

The bearer party will lift the coffin from the State Gun Carriage and place it in the State Hearse. They will then salute as the hearse drives slowly from Wellington Arch, as the national anthem is played.

King Charles, the Queen Consort, the Prince and Princess of Wales and members of the Royal Family will follow the hearse in cars, for the trip to Windsor Castle.

Intimate goodbye in the gothic splendour of Windsor

by REBECCA ENGLISH
ROYAL EDITOR

WHILE all eyes will be on the pomp and majesty of events in London on Monday, a simpler and far more personal ceremony will take place in Windsor afterwards.

With no more than 800 people present, it will be a chance for the Queen's family, friends and staff to say the most intimate of goodbyes amid the gothic splendour of St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

THE COFFIN PROCESSION

AT 3.06pm the State Hearse will approach Shaw Farm Gate at Windsor at the entrance to the Queen's Home Park and join the official procession into the town.

Four minutes later it will head off up the Long Walk, the famous tree-lined three-mile avenue leading to Windsor Castle.

The procession will wend its way to St George's Chapel through the Cambridge Gate and up Cambridge Drive, through to George IV Gate and into the South and West side of the Quadrangle.

As it enters into the area immediately around St George's Chapel it will pass through Engine Court, the Norman Arch, Chapel Hill and, finally, Horseshoe Cloister Arch.

Members of the Royal Family – led by the King – will join the procession at 3.40pm at the Quadrangle as it passes into Engine Court.

The Queen Consort with The Princess of Wales, and The Duchess of Sussex with The Countess of Wessex will again follow by car.

Ahead of the coffin will be a dismounted detachment of the Household Cavalry Regiment, followed immediately by a mounted division of the Sovereign's Escort, a Massed Pipes and Drums of Scottish and Irish regiments, the bands of the Coldstream Guards and Household Cavalry, officers of the Household Division, as well as the liveried Kings, Heralds and Pursuivants of Arms and members of the Queen's personal staff.

In the centre of the procession the state hearse will be flanked by the Pall Bearers and an Escort Party consisting of 2 Officers and 24 Rank and File of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.

The Queen's Company Colour, the Royal Standard of the regiment of Grenadier Guards, and a Sovereign's Standard of the Household Cavalry, will be positioned in front and rear of the hearse. To the rear of the coffin, members of The Queen's, The King's and The Prince of Wales Households will be positioned.

The haunting silence of the Queen's final journey to Windsor will be broken by the sound of 'minute guns' fired by The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery as the coffin moves to the West Steps of St George's Chapel. The Sebastopol Bell and the Curfew Tower Bell will be tolled concurrently.

THE ENTRY INTO ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL

A GUARD of honour consisting of three officers and 110 rank and file soldiers, from the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, will be mounted in Horseshoe Cloister, while the West Steps to the Chapel will be lined by members of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment.

The Windsor Castle Guard will be turned out facing the Guardroom and will present arms for the arrival of members of the Royal Family and to the state hearse.

At 3.53pm the procession will halt at the bottom of the West Steps and the bearer party will lift the coffin up the West Steps.

THE 'INTIMATE' COMMITTAL SERVICE

UNLIKE the state funeral at Westminster Abbey – where more than 2,000 people will gather – fewer than 800 people will be present. The general congregation will be made up of Her Majesty's household past and present.

The majority of those attending the ceremony at St. George's Chapel will not have attended the earlier service at Westminster Abbey, emphasising just how 'inner circle' this event will be.

At 3.20pm governors general and prime ministers of realms – those countries where the Queen was head of state – will arrive at the chapel and escorted to their seats in the nave amid the flowering Gothic architecture.

Shortly afterwards members of the Royal Family not walking in the outdoor procession will arrive.

The committal service will begin at 4pm. As the coffin moves through the nave, it will pass the sarcophagus of George V and Queen Mary. He is one of ten British monarchs to be buried in the chapel, namely King George V of Hanover, Henry VI, Edward IV, Henry VIII, Charles I, George III, William IV, Edward VII, George V and George VI. Near the sarcophagus is a statue of King Leopold of the Belgians and memorial to his wife, Princess Charlotte, who died in childbirth in 1870. She was George IV's heir. Her death led to Queen Victoria acceding the throne.

The Quire is the resting place of most of the monarchs buried at the chapel. Edward VII and Henry VI are buried to the right of the altar, while Edward IV is on the left. Underneath in the royal vault are George III, George IV and William IV. Monday's service will be conducted by the Dean of Windsor, with prayers said by the Rector of Sandringham, the Minister of Crathie Kirk and the Chaplain of Windsor Great Park.

INSTRUMENTS OF STATE ARE HANDED ON

PRIOR to the final hymn, the

STEP BY STEP, THE JOURNEY TO

WINDSOR CASTLE | THE PROCESSION

1 PROCESSION

3pm Procession forms up on the fringes of Windsor, at Shaw Farm Gate on Albert Road.

3.06pm State Hearse approaches and joins the procession.

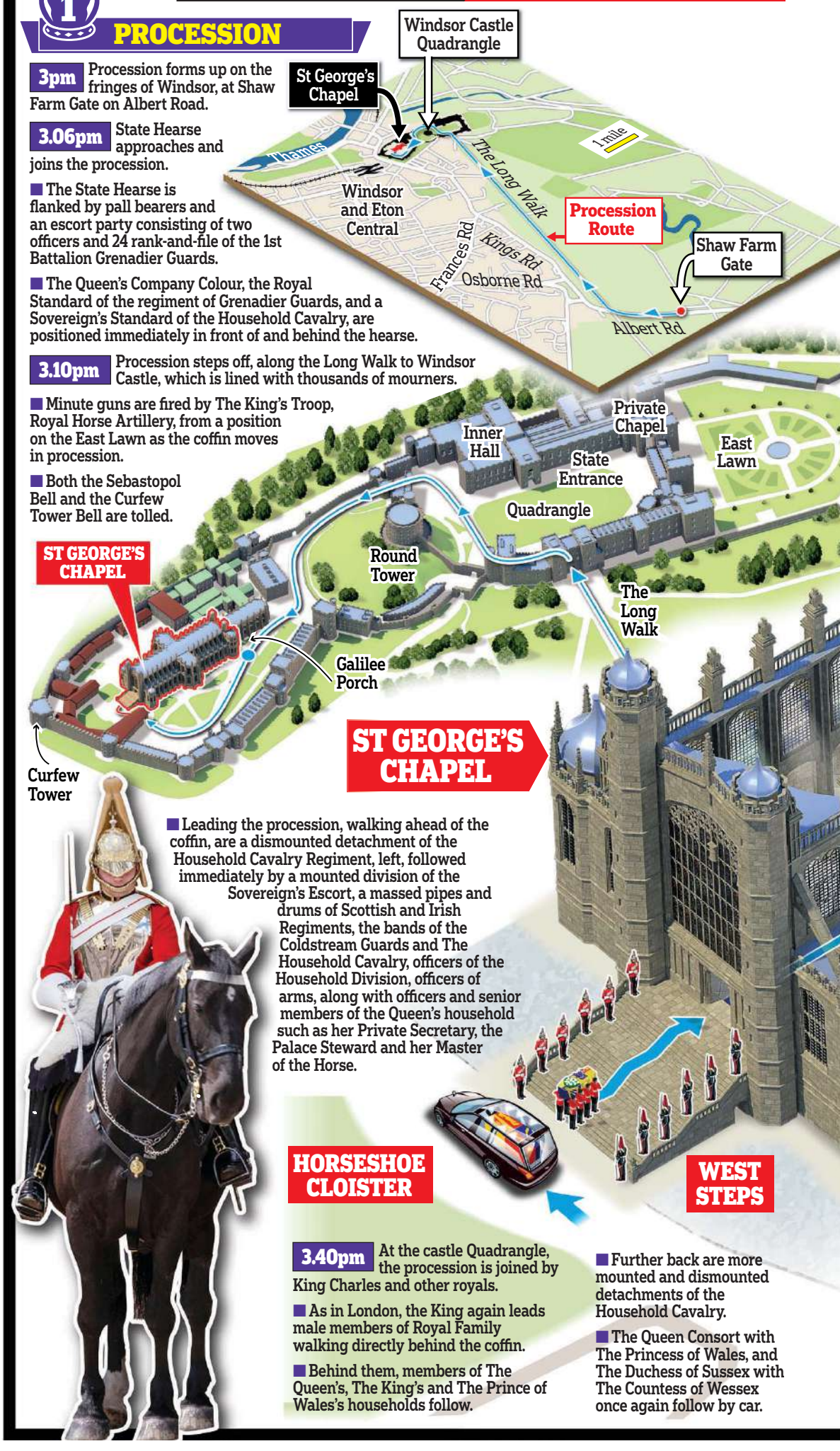
■ The State Hearse is flanked by pall bearers and an escort party consisting of two officers and 24 rank-and-file of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.

■ The Queen's Company Colour, the Royal Standard of the regiment of Grenadier Guards, and a Sovereign's Standard of the Household Cavalry, are positioned immediately in front of and behind the hearse.

3.10pm Procession steps off, along the Long Walk to Windsor Castle, which is lined with thousands of mourners.

■ Minute guns are fired by The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, from a position on the East Lawn as the coffin moves in procession.

■ Both the Sebastopol Bell and the Curfew Tower Bell are tolled.



■ Leading the procession, walking ahead of the coffin, are a dismounted detachment of the Household Cavalry Regiment, left, followed immediately by a mounted division of the Sovereign's Escort, a massed pipes and drums of Scottish and Irish Regiments, the bands of the Coldstream Guards and The Household Cavalry, officers of the Household Division, officers of arms, along with officers and senior members of the Queen's household such as her Private Secretary, the Palace Steward and her Master of the Horse.

3.40pm At the castle Quadrangle, the procession is joined by King Charles and other royals.

■ As in London, the King again leads male members of Royal Family walking directly behind the coffin.

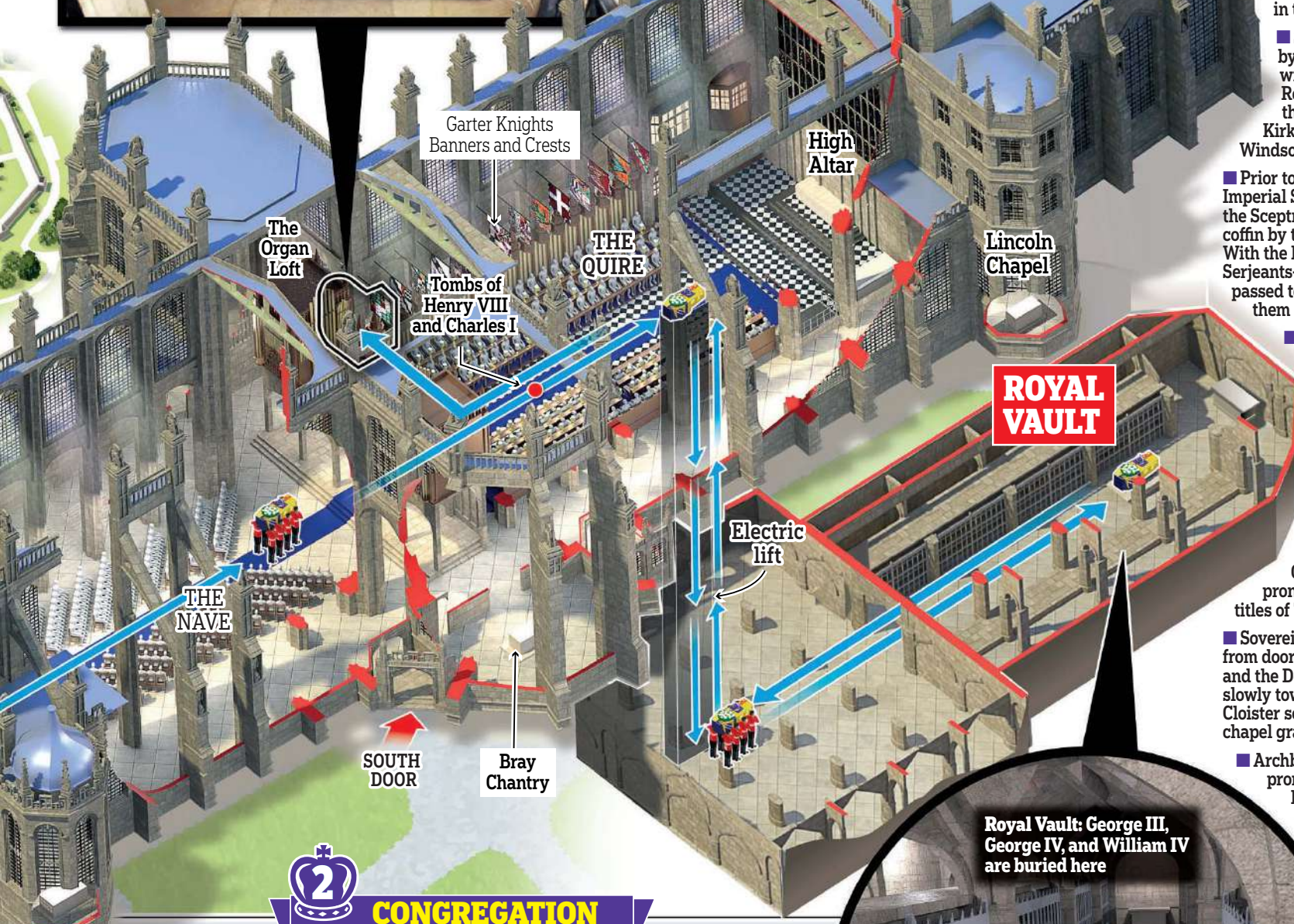
■ Behind them, members of The Queen's, The King's and The Prince of Wales's households follow.

■ Further back are more mounted and dismounted detachments of the Household Cavalry.

■ The Queen Consort with The Princess of Wales, and The Duchess of Sussex with The Countess of Wessex once again follow by car.

HER FINAL RESTING PLACE WITH HER ADORED HUSBAND

KING GEORGE VI MEMORIAL CHAPEL



THE CLERGY

The service will be led by The Dean of Windsor, The Rt Rev. David Conner, left. The blessing will be pronounced by Justin Welby, The Archbishop of Canterbury, right.

MINUTE GUNS

Minute Guns will be fired by The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, from a position on the East Lawn as the coffin moves in procession from Shaw Farm Gate to the West Steps of St. George's Chapel.

3 BURIAL

4pm Committal Service begins – televised.

- Procession enters chapel and proceeds down centre aisle to catafalque in the Quire.
- Service is conducted by the Dean of Windsor, with prayers from the Rector of Sandringham, the Minister of Crathie Kirk and the Chaplain of Windsor Great Park.
- Prior to the final hymn, the Imperial State Crown, the Orb and the Sceptre are removed from the coffin by the Crown Jeweller. With the Bargemaster and Serjeants-at-Arms, they are passed to the Dean who places them on the altar.
- After the final hymn, The King places The Queen's Company Camp Colour of the Grenadier Guards on the coffin. The Lord Chamberlain 'breaks' his wand of office.
- As coffin is lowered into the Royal Vault, the Dean of Windsor says a psalm and the commendation, before Garter King of Arms pronounces the styles and titles of The Queen.
- Sovereign's Piper plays a Lament from doorway between the chapel and the Dean's Cloister. He walks slowly towards the Deanery in the Cloister so the music inside the chapel gradually fades.
- Archbishop of Canterbury pronounces the blessing. Followed by singing God Save The King.

Royal Vault: George III, George IV, and William IV are buried here

7.30pm

- Private burial service – not televised – is conducted by the Dean of Windsor, attended by the King and members of the Royal Family.
- Her Majesty is buried together with her late husband, The Duke of Edinburgh, at the King George VI Memorial Chapel.

2 CONGREGATION

2pm Doors of St George's Chapel in Horseshoe Cloister open for the general congregation, comprising members of Her Majesty's household past and present including personal staff who work, or who have worked, on the private estates.

- On duty are the Military Knights of Windsor, the honorary bodyguards.

3.20pm Governors General and Realm prime ministers arrive at the West Door, St. George's Chapel, and are escorted to their seats in the Nave.

3.25pm Royals not walking in the procession arrive at the West Door and are escorted to their seats in the Quire and the Nave.

- In Horseshoe Cloister, Windsor Castle Guard is turned out, facing the guardroom, and presents arms for the arrival of royals.

3.53pm Procession halts at the bottom of the West Steps of St. George's Chapel. Bearer party lifts the coffin from the State Hearse. They carry it up the West Steps.

- Guard of honour welcomes coffin, consisting of three officers and 110 rank-and-file from the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.
- Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment lines the steps.

Imperial State Crown, the Orb and the Sceptre will be removed from the Queen's coffin by the Crown Jeweller and Bargemaster and Serjeants-at-Arms. They will pass them to the Dean who will place them on the chapel altar.

At the end of the final hymn the King will place the Queen's Company Camp Colour of the Grenadier Guards on the coffin. At the same time, the Lord Chamberlain, former MI5 director general Lord Parker, will symbolically 'break' his wand of office upon losing his post – then place it on the coffin.

THE FINAL, MOVING MOMENTS

THE last sight of the Queen's coffin will be as it is lowered into the Royal vault. It is hidden under a marble slab, measuring around 7ft by 4ft. The slab actually descends down into the Royal vault below the floor with the help of a recently-installed electric lift, but one that has manual override. As the Queen's coffin is lowered into the Royal Vault, the Dean of Windsor will say a Psalm and the Commendation. Hauntingly, The Sovereign's Piper – Pipe Major Paul Burns – will play a lament from the doorway between the chapel and the Dean's Cloister during which he will walk towards the Deanery so that the music fades. The Archbishop of Canterbury will then pronounce the Blessing, which will be followed by the singing of God Save The King.

LAST MOMENTS WITH THEIR BELOVED

THE Queen has long expressed her wishes to be reunited with her adored parents, King George VI, and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, along with Prince Philip and her sister, Princess Margaret.

A 'deeply personal' private burial service will be conducted by the Dean of Windsor at 7.30pm of which no further details will be given. It is anticipated that the chapel will be opened to members of the public the next day to pay their respects free of charge.

Funeral invitation for China attacked by MPs

By **Tom Witherow**

TORY MPs have criticised the Palace's decision to invite the Chinese government to the Queen's state funeral, labelling the move 'project kowtow'.

China's president Xi Jinping was invited to Monday's event but is thought unlikely to attend. In his place, a delegation led by vice-president Wang Qishan is expected to travel.

The invitation comes just months after MPs declared that China is committing genocide against the Uighur people in Xinjiang, while a recent UN human rights assessment concluded that 'serious' violations had been committed there.

Now a group of parliamentarians sanctioned by China have called for Beijing's invitation to be rescinded. Sir Iain Duncan Smith was among those voicing anger, citing what he said was a growing list of human rights abuses. The former Tory leader, who is currently attending a conference on China in Washington DC, said: 'I find the whole thing astonishing – the genocide of the Uighurs, trashing Hong Kong, threatening Taiwan, taking over the South China Sea and persecuting Christians.

'We've banned Myanmar but we're taking China. It shows again the West being weak in the face of Chinese money.

'I'm a sanctioned individual, one of seven, and we are questioning why China has been invited. We are being tossed aside because of realpolitik.'

Senior Tory MP Tim Loughton said Britain 'can't possibly have official representatives of the Chinese government attending such an important occasion'.

He told BBC Radio 4's World At One programme: 'I don't know why this has happened. I don't know whether it's a conspiracy or cock-up.

'You cannot have a golden age, normal relations, with a country which has now been exposed as committing the sorts of atrocities that it has.'

The duo, alongside crossbench peer Lord Alton and Labour peer Baroness Kennedy – who have all been sanctioned by Beijing – have also written to the Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, to demand the Chinese delegation is barred.

The group said they should not be asked to mourn the Queen alongside the leader of a state that is 'persecuting' them and their families with sanctions.

A message expressing concern has also been sent to James Cleverly, the Foreign Secretary.

Invitations have been extended to the heads of state of all nations with which the UK has normal diplomatic relations. No representatives from Russia, Belarus, Syria, Venezuela or Afghanistan have been invited, while North Korea, Iran and Nicaragua have been invited only at ambassadorial level.

The list of invitations has been drawn up with advice from the Foreign Office, although the invitations have been issued by Buckingham Palace.

Yesterday, No 10 confirmed Liz Truss will hold bilateral meetings with a 'small proportion' of the leaders over the weekend, ahead of a reception with King Charles III on Sunday evening. The Prime Minister is expected to meet President Biden but not the Chinese vice president, a source said.

Her official spokesman said: 'It's for the Palace to invite heads of state and world leaders. It's for them to set out the guest list and it is convention to invite those we have diplomatic relations with.'

Moscow last night hit out at the decision to exclude Russia from the invite list. A foreign ministry spokesman said: 'This is particularly blasphemous towards Elizabeth II's memory.'

'Don't know if it's conspiracy or cock-up'

Headache as Spain's shamed former king set on attending

By **Tom Witherow**

SPAIN'S former king Juan Carlos will attend the Queen's State Funeral on Monday despite his abdication and a series of scandals and fraud investigations.

Juan Carlos, 84, who abdicated in 2014 after nearly 40 years, will travel from self-imposed exile in Abu Dhabi with his wife Sofia, 83.

Spanish state prosecutors only recently dropped a widespread corruption probe into the former king looking into alleged kickbacks and dubious deals.

Juan Carlos's son King Felipe VI and his wife Queen Letizia have already confirmed they will go to the funeral. His father's attendance has caused a headache as the Spanish government has made it clear they want the current king to represent the country.

Juan Carlos could still face trial in London over harassment claims brought by his ex-lover, Princess Corinna.

She has accused the royal of using Spain's national intelligence agency to harass and threaten her after they broke up, allegations he rejects 'in the strongest terms'. The ex-king was accused of using her Monaco tax residence to buy property abroad. Leaked recordings revealed her fears of being drawn into 'money laundering'.

Questions were also raised over allegedly fraudulent transactions involving a Jersey shell company.

But none of the allegations could be proved, and the investigation was dropped in March. The state prosecutor cited difficulties collecting evidence and Juan Carlos's immunity to prosecution in the years when he was king.

Juan Carlos also moved to settle more than £4million of unpaid taxes, shielding him from an investigation into dubious transactions with a Mexican businessman.

Banquet: The Queen speaks to then-King Juan Carlos on a tour of Spain in 1988

Victoria and George Cross heroes to join Abbey throng

By **Mark Nicol**
Defence Editor

Brave: Joshua Leakey and VC

ALL 25 living recipients of Her Majesty's highest awards for gallantry – the Victoria Cross and the George Cross – have been invited to the Queen's funeral.

The prestigious group include British and Australian soldiers who displayed exemplary courage on the battlefield. Insiders say 17 are expected to attend.

The VC is the highest decoration for valour in the face of the enemy. The GC is often called the civilian equivalent but it has also been awarded to military personnel for bravery when the enemy was not present.

The most recent living British VCs are Joshua Leakey of the Parachute Regiment, decorated for his bravery in Afghanistan in 2013, and Johnson Beharry of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, for courage in Iraq in 2004.

Bryan Budd of the Parachute Regiment and James Ashworth of the Grenadier Guards were awarded posthumous VCs in 2006 and 2012 respectively. Both were killed in action in Afghanistan.

Four Australian Special Forces soldiers also earned the VC in Afghanistan. Ben Roberts-Smith, Keith Payne, Mark Donaldson and Daniel Keighran. Mr Roberts-Smith spoke yesterday of his 'deep respect' for the Queen as 'a magnificent monarch, a stoic leader and a lovely lady'.

British forces won four GCs in Afghanistan. Royal Marine Matthew Croucher dived on to an unexploded grenade to save his colleagues while bomb disposal officer Kim Hughes made safe 119 deadly devices.

Police officers with GCs expected to attend include Jim Beaton, now 79, who won his award after he was shot three times while protecting Princess Anne from an armed attacker in 1974. Former PC Tony Gledhill, 84, won his after he was shot 15 times chasing an armed gang in London in 1966. He said: 'I'm absolutely delighted. It's an honour.'

Businessman Lord Ashcroft, who owns more than 200 VC medals, said: 'These individuals are the bravest of the brave and it is entirely appropriate they are honoured in this special way.'

Those invited will also get special access to Her Majesty's lying-in-state at Westminster Hall.

Crowning glory of priceless treasures

AT the heart of the Crown Jewels are the Queen's Instruments of State, which will lie on her coffin on Monday.

The Imperial State Crown boasts more than 3,000 gems – including 2,868 diamonds, 273 pearls, 17 sapphires, 11 emeralds, and five rubies.

Made in 1937 for the coronation of the Queen's father, King George VI, it weighs in at a hefty 2lb 5oz.

During her reign, Queen Elizabeth II would wear it annually for the State Opening of Parliament, until it became too heavy for her to bear.

By **Rebecca English**
Royal Editor

The Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross has been used at every coronation since Charles II's in 1661.

At 3ft long, it represents the monarch's power in the secular world and holds a piece of the world's largest diamond, the Cullinan I, which weighs in at an astonishing 530.2 carats. Meanwhile, the Sovereign's Orb, a golden globe surmounted by a cross, reminds the monarch that their power is derived from God and is presented at a monarch's coronation.

The ornate piece of regalia is golden and has a cross perched on top to symbolize heavenly power over the world. It is extravagantly mounted with emeralds, rubies, sapphires, diamonds, pearls and one amethyst.

1953: The Queen in her coronation garb

NHS staff to join procession with Harry and Wills

By **Vanessa Allen**

A HUGE procession will accompany the Queen's coffin from Westminster Abbey to Hyde Park as London bids a final farewell to its longest-serving monarch on Monday.

Much of the capital will be brought to a standstill as senior Royals walk behind the coffin, joined by members of the police, Armed Forces and the NHS.

Prince William and Prince Harry will walk side-by-side as the procession moves slowly from Westminster Abbey to the Wellington Arch, near the entrance to Hyde Park.

The brothers will follow the King, the Princess Royal, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward as they walk behind the coffin, borne on the State Gun Carriage of the Royal Navy.

The sight will echo the brothers' poignant walk behind the Queen's lead-lined casket earlier this week, but also their procession behind their mother's coffin following Diana's death in 1997.

On Monday the Queen Consort, the Princess of Wales, the Duchess of Sussex and the Countess of Wessex will follow by car. The Queen's coffin will be carried on a 123-year-old gun carriage towed by 98 Royal Navy sailors in a tradition dating back to the funeral of Queen Victoria.

The procession route will be lined by the Armed Forces in a final salute, and Big Ben will toll at one-minute intervals throughout.

Gun salutes will also be fired every minute from Hyde Park for the duration.

The procession itself will be led by Mounties from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. They will be followed by members of the George Cross Foundation and detachments from the Armed Forces from around the Commonwealth.

Huge detachments from the RAF, the Army, the Navy and the Marines will follow, each accompanied by their own bands.

In attendance will be the massed pipes and drums of Scottish and Irish Regiments, the Brigade of Gurkhas, and the Royal Air Force – numbering 200 musicians. The gun carriage bearing the coffin will be surrounded by the King's Body Guards of The Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, The Yeomen of the Guard and the Royal Company of Archers.

Representatives of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the NHS will follow the Royals, along with mounted officers from the Metropolitan Police.

A Guard of Honour will remain in position in Parliament Square, and ex-service veterans will flank the Cenotaph on Whitehall as the coffin passes.

The King's Life Guard will give a Royal Salute as it reaches Horse Guards, before the procession heads into The Mall towards Buckingham Palace.

The King's Guard will turn out in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace and will give a Royal Salute as the coffin passes the Queen Victoria Memorial, opposite the palace.

At 1pm the procession will reach Wellington Arch, where the coffin will be lifted from the gun carriage and placed into the State Hearse, to begin its final journey to Windsor Castle.

'Gun salutes will fire every minute'

As the hearse leaves Wellington Arch, the parade will give a final Royal Salute and the National Anthem will be played.

The hearse will be followed by the late monarch's son-in-law Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, husband of Princess Anne, the Duke of Gloucester, the Queen's cousin, and her nephew, the Earl of Snowdon.

5 miles and 9 hours in the

Setting off: Hundreds wait to get a tag and find the back of the queue

Landmarks: City Hall, HMS Belfast and (right) the City's Walkie Talkie

THOUSANDS of mourners snaked through the streets of London yesterday as the queue to see the Queen lying in state stretched more than five miles.

The 'Elizabeth Line' was praised as a 'triumph of Britishness' as it stretched past Tower Bridge to Bermondsey in East London at 2pm. By yesterday evening it was nearly five miles long as it reached back to Southwark Park.

Those at the back faced a wait of up nine hours. Firefighters arrived to hand out bottles of water to them in the park. Many had queued through the night in order to be part of the historic occasion.

Participants described a jovial, happy atmosphere in the line, with some making lifelong friends along the way.

'The people I queued with I will now have a lasting bond with,' said

By **Izzy Lyons**

BBC journalist Robert Rea. 'One of my favourite moments was on the Albert Embankment,' he said. 'Two girls had stopped to leave their bags at the bag-drop and were walking up and down the queue trying desperately to find their friends.

'One of the queue marshals suggested they give their friends a call. "We can't" they said, "We don't know their numbers. We only met them in the queue".'

Downing Street said: 'The people of the United Kingdom are demonstrating not only respect for each other in queuing in such a responsible way and showing sort of a great response to this situation,' a spokesman said. One twitter user said: 'The queue as a triumph of Britishness. It's incredible.' The post has been liked 66,000 times.

On the move: The river of well-wishers and mourners threads its way through cobbled streets in

Elizabeth line to see Queen

Bermondsey, East London

3

River of sorrow: The queue moves steadily along the Thames, returning past Tower Bridge with the City of London on the opposite bank

5

Looking back: The Houses of Parliament and the London Eye behind them, the patient crowd crosses the Thames on Lambeth Bridge

6

So close: The queue zigzags across Victoria Tower Gardens, next to the Houses of Parliament and their destination – Westminster Hall

Pictures: BRUCE ADAMS

They came bearing children, dogs... and loved ones' ashes

Prepared: Nicola Baker practised bowing

By **Izzy Lyons, Connor Stringer** and **Isabelle Stanley**

Ashes to ashes: Sisters Joan and Pauline, carrying their husbands' ashes, said they wanted to show respect to the Queen

IT was a typically British occasion: quirky and good-hearted.

Mourners clutching their loved ones' ashes were among thousands who waited throughout the night to pay their respects to the Queen.

As the historic commemoration entered its second day, wellwishers stood shoulder to shoulder in one solemn line.

Sisters Joan and Pauline had travelled down from Southport, Merseyside, with their husbands' ashes which come with them 'wherever we go'.

Pauline, whose husband Mike was a policeman, said: '[Mike] loved the Royal Family and when they came up to Liverpool he was a protection officer, so service was very important.'

Joan, whose late husband Charlie worked in the ambulance service, said her spouse's 'service to the Crown' made the visit all the more important. After paying their respects in Westminster Hall, Pauline said the experience was 'so moving' as it brought back the memories of the loved ones she had lost.

'Even though it's a sad day, it's also a lovely one'

'That's what you think about. She's another human being but it is so nice to be able to show your respect for her. Even though it's a sad day it's also a lovely day,' she added.

The siblings were joined by a woman dubbed the world's most devoted royal fan after she made an 11,600-mile trip from New Zealand back to Britain to pay her last respects to the Queen.

Julia McCarthy-Fox had to fork out £2,500 to make it in time to say her goodbyes in person.

The 57-year-old moved to New Zealand from Horsham in West Sussex in 2019, but her love for the Royal Family remained strong.

After setting up camp on the Mall, Miss McCarthy-Fox headed to the long queue late on Wednesday evening armed with packets of chocolate to get her through the wait.

'I'm hoping to get to the front [on Thursday] morning. I can sleep standing up so I will have to do that in the queue, but I don't know if I can sleep and walk,' she said.

Former service men and women were out in force for their 'former boss', including retired soldier Jeff Smith.

Festooned in medals, 68-year-old Mr Smith left Westminster Hall with his wife Jenny, 68, daughter Victoria Weston and grandchildren James, six, and Olivia, four, after a seven-hour wait. The family woke up at 4am to travel into London from Chislehurst, south-east London.

Standing next to his grandson, Mr Smith – who served in Germany and America – said: 'I'm very proud of serving her, she presented me with an MBE and it was just the right thing to do.'

He added: 'I came as a veteran, I met her four times. It was worth every minute. You don't realise the emotion until it's released when you step into that room.'

His daughter Victoria also wore her grandfather's medals awarded after he was kept as a prisoner of war in Japan for four years.

Meanwhile James, wearing another smaller set of Mr Smith's medals, said: 'The queue was really long but it was worth it.'

Citizens old and young camped, crouched and queued through the night to say farewell.

Officials at Westminster Hall said some even brought their dogs along to pay their respects to the Queen. Fiona Holloran, 34, and her husband Carter, 39, brought their seven-month-old daughter Kiera to be one of the first babies to see the late Queen.

'We had to come to say goodbye,' she said, weeping. 'It's been an overwhelming sense of occasion with all of this space, we never expected it.' And account manager Kate Bailey, 32, held her seven-month-old daughter Rose close to her chest as they walked along the South Bank towards London Bridge.

Travelling from Cheshire with her friend Lucy Baker, 32, the pair settled in for the 8-hour queue that awaited them.

Miss Bailey said: 'We thought we'd always regret it if we don't try but we will see how it goes.

'The Queen did so much for us, didn't she. So it is the least we could do.' Meanwhile, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby joined to talk to well-wishers, police and even performed a blessing on a ten-year-old girl while she waited in the queue.

'You don't realise the emotion until you step into that room'

Photographer Nicola Baker, 45, said she had practised bowing in her wheelchair before travelling alone to London on the Night Riviera sleeper train from Penzance, Cornwall.

The seasoned follower of the Royal Family said: 'I came for the Queen Mother's funeral but I was walking then so I could curtsy.

'Even then I wobbled so I thought at least I won't wobble in my chair – but I was still worried about my balance.'

She plans to return for the funeral on Monday, and said she was there to represent her 80-year-old mother who did not feel able to make the long journey.

Pictures: MARK LARGE/BRUCE ADAMS

Family tribute: Retired soldier Jeff Smith with his wife, daughter and grandchildren

Baby comes too: Fiona and Carter Holloran

Ma'am's the word: Kate Bailey and Lucy Baker

Relaxed: Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby shares a joke with police officers

11,600-mile trip: Devoted Julia McCarthy-Fox

Fusspots even took away my Werther's Original!

Daily Mail Reporters

SECURITY jobsworths had a field day as they took hand sanitiser and boiled sweets from elderly mourners queuing to pay their respects to the Queen.

Stewards in hi-vis were accused of being overzealous as they cracked down on what could and could not be brought into Westminster Hall where the Queen is lying in state.

Mourners also described brazen pushing-in towards the back of the line as young people took advantage of spaces left by slow elderly people in the queue.

Officials have enforced airport-style security as the public enter the Palace of Westminster.

One mourner was forced to hand over a single Werther's Original, lipstick and hand sanitiser, while others told of various items being confiscated.

Matthew, 39, said: 'I was told to throw away my little bottle of glasses cleaner, you'd just never have even thought of it.' He was also made to empty the liquid out of his electronic cigarette.

'I've arrested another one in possession of Werther's Originals with intent to supply

His mother Glennis, 72, had her mini-toothpaste, deodorant and face cream taken away.

'I won't look so fresh-faced tomorrow,' she said.

Jane, 53, had a confrontation with the stewards after they demanded she hand over her perfume bottle.

'They told me to throw away my Chanel No 5 but I begged and begged. I nearly cried,' she said. 'They wanted my make-up too but I hid it.'

While some could not be without their perfume or snacks, it was revealed that others couldn't part from their pets.

A Parliamentary source told the Daily Mail that officials have stopped six mourners from entering Westminster Hall after they were caught trying to smuggle in their pet dogs hidden under coats.

Standing guard at Queen's

AND HERE'S EX-PM PAYING RESPECTS

Familiar face: Former Prime Minister Theresa May looks sombre as she queues with her husband Sir Philip yesterday

By **Kumail Jaffer**
Political Reporter

SPORTING the official uniform of the Royal Company of Archers, two senior Cabinet ministers stand vigil at the Queen's coffin.

While their parliamentary colleagues paid their respects in queues at Westminster Hall, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace and Scottish Secretary Alister Jack watched over the late monarch with other members of the historic unit.

Wearing dark uniforms and carrying the distinctive bow of the sovereign's bodyguard in Scotland, the pair stood guard on the raised platform where the coffin will lie until the funeral on Monday.

'The respect and devotion of her citizens'

Both men – appointed to the Prime Minister's Cabinet earlier this month – are members of the Royal Company of Archers, which guarded the Queen's coffin when it was in St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh earlier this week.

The unit, which also provided a guard during the Queen Mother's lying-in-state, was part of a rotation of guards who stood in 20-minute blocks yesterday afternoon. The Sovereign's Bodyguard, the Household Division and the Yeoman Warders of the Tower of London are also helping watch over the coffin around the clock.

Formed in 1672 and taking on its role as the sovereign's bodyguard in Scotland from 1822, the Royal Company has previously boasted members such as Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott. Members of the company must be Scots or have strong Scottish connections.

Allies of Mr Wallace, formerly a member of the Scottish Parliament, suggested that it was his duty as a royal archer to take part in the ceremony.

After her death, the Defence Secretary praised the Queen's commitment to the Armed Forces and said she 'dedicated her life to serving her nation'.

And Alister Jack said: 'Her long reign was defined by hard work and dedicated public service, earning her the respect and devotion of her citizens.'

Yesterday former prime minister Theresa May was also seen paying her respects to the Queen.

Mrs May, who paid tribute to the Queen as 'the most remarkable person' earlier this week, curtseyed one final time to Her Majesty and paused to reflect for a moment. The 13th prime minister of the late monarch's reign, who spoke to the Queen weekly during her time in No 10, was joined in Westminster Hall by her husband Sir Philip.

She told ITV's Lorraine on Tuesday: 'The late Queen Elizabeth was an example of devotion to duty par excellence. She was the most remarkable person I've ever met. The combination of qualities she had, I haven't come across in anybody else. I doubt we will see her like again.'

And referring to her private weekly chats with the Queen during her premiership, she said: 'It's a very calm moment when you're able to have a conversation with somebody who has immense experience and immense wisdom.'

coffin, our Defence Secretary

Keeping watch: Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, and Scottish Secretary Alister Jack, front left, guard the Queen's coffin at Westminster Hall yesterday

Picture: YIU MOK/PA WIRE

Winning MORE hearts, Anne and Sophie, her two dutiful 'daughters'

By **Inderdeep Bains, Bill Bowkett** and **Lucy Lamoury**

WITH her hands clasped together in gratitude, the Princess Royal greeted well-wishers in Scotland yesterday.

Princess Anne comforted mourners and viewed flower tributes in Glasgow as she visited the City Chambers to meet organisations of which her mother was patron.

The Countess of Wessex – who was so close to her mother-in-law the Queen that she was like a 'second daughter' – was also greeting crowds yesterday at St Ann's Square in Manchester.

With her husband the Earl of Wessex, they met mourners and viewed tributes left for the Queen. A tender moment came when Sophie embraced Josh MacPake, who has autism and DiGeorge Syndrome.

She hugged him when she arrived, receiving a bouquet from him, and the 57-year-old rushed over again before she left.

Josh, who was clutching a teddy bear dressed as a Royal Guardsman and wearing a cap emblazoned with the Union Jack, is from Blackpool and travelled to Manchester to lay flowers in the square. The crowd were touched by the embrace and said an emotional 'awww' in unison and applauded.

His mother Sue MacPake, 49, said: 'It was a lovely moment when Sophie hugged Josh.

'It was very emotional and shows what a warm person she is. Josh put his arms out to her and she just gave him a lovely hug. I will cherish that memory.'

Asked how he felt about meeting Sophie, the young fan said he was 'happy' and that he 'loves the Royal Family'. During the visit Sophie and Prince Edward were invited by the Dean of Manchester, the Very Rev Rogers Govender, and the Bishop of Manchester, David Walker, to each light a candle at Manchester Cathedral.

Further north, the Princess Royal returned to Scotland after having travelled with the Queen's coffin from Balmoral to London.

Considered by many to be the hardest-working royal, Anne thanked weeping Scots in George Square for their condolences.

'Professional enough to carry on her duties'

In one touching moment, she reached out to a child in the crowd who was waiting to hand over a bouquet of pink gerbera daisies.

Anne, who has five grandchildren, smiled as she accepted the flowers from four-year-old Hollie McBride. 'They're not for me, are they?' Anne asked. Hollie's family explained the gerbera daisies were for Anne, while an accompanying bouquet of yellow flowers were a tribute for the Queen. Anne responded: 'That's very kind of you.'

Hollie's mother Marie later praised the Princess Royal. Mrs McBride said: 'She was professional enough, compassionate enough to carry on her duties.'

Anne was accompanied by her husband Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence as she was welcomed by the Lord Provost of Glasgow City Council Jacqueline McLaren.

The princess met with representatives from charities and organisations of which the Queen had been patron, including Glasgow Cathedral, Glasgow Caledonian University, the Royal British Legion Scotland, YMCA, the Royal Scottish Society of Arts, the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and Lambhill Stables.

Warm embrace: Sophie, Countess of Wessex, gives Josh MacPake a big squeeze after he greeted her in Manchester yesterday

Touching moment: Josh, who gave her flowers, leans in for the hug

All smiles: Sophie and Josh pose for a photograph afterwards

Charles spends day at Highgrove

ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury Justin Welby has praised the 'extraordinary courage' of King Charles as the new monarch heads for Wales today to conclude his tour of the home nations.

He said most people would find fulfilling such duties 'unfathomable' while grieving a parent.

Over the past week the King has travelled some 1,500 miles in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. During a scheduled day off at his Highgrove estate in Gloucestershire yesterday he spoke to at least eight presidents and governor-generals.

He resumes his official duties today with his first visit to Wales as King, travelling to Cardiff accompanied by the Queen Consort.

The Most Reverend Welby told the BBC: 'The courage of him doing that is extraordinary but also it demonstrates his heart of service to the people.

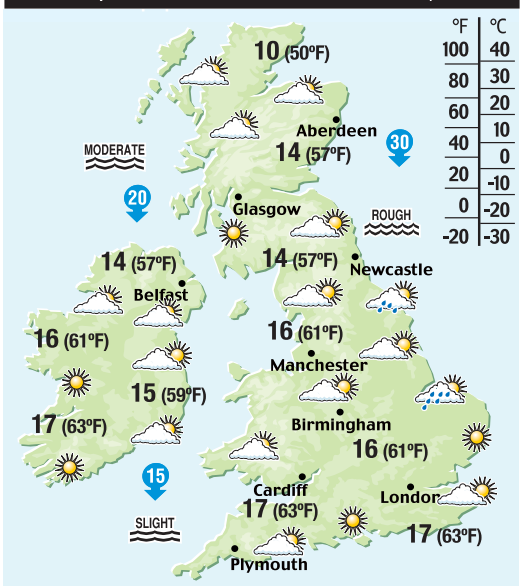
'There will be loads of people... who have gone through something similar and if you said to them; "Actually you're going to go on a tour of the United Kingdom immediately and you are going to meet thousands of people and you are expected not to show public emotion", I think they'd say, "Don't be ridiculous."'

Picture: STUART WALLACE/SHUTTERSTOCK

A sincere thank you: Princess Anne greets weeping mourners in Glasgow yesterday, where she was handed a bouquet by a well-wisher

Weather

Go to: **dailymail.co.uk/weather** for UK and world 5 day forecast



Summary: Sunny spells

UK TODAY: Mainly dry with long spells of sunshine but there is a chance of showers which will be most frequent across North Sea coastal areas where there is a threat of gales. Gentle winds elsewhere. Max 18c.

Today's weather

	9am	12noon	3pm	6pm	9pm
London	12c	15c	16c	16c	13c
Plymouth	14c	17c	18c	16c	13c
Cardiff	13c	16c	17c	16c	12c
B'ham	11c	14c	15c	14c	11c
M'chester	10c	13c	15c	14c	10c
Newcastle	9c	12c	13c	12c	9c
Glasgow	9c	12c	14c	13c	9c
Aberdeen	10c	11c	11c	10c	9c
Belfast	11c	13c	13c	12c	10c

5 day forecast

	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
London	18c	18c	18c	19c	20c
Plymouth	18c	18c	19c	18c	18c
Cardiff	18c	18c	19c	18c	19c
B'ham	16c	16c	17c	18c	18c
M'chester	15c	15c	16c	16c	18c
Newcastle	15c	14c	14c	16c	18c
Glasgow	15c	16c	15c	17c	17c
Aberdeen	13c	12c	12c	15c	16c
Belfast	15c	15c	16c	17c	17c

Yesterday

24 hours to 6pm	Sun (hrs)	Rain (ins)	Temp (min)	Temp (max)
Aberdeen	5.0	0.15	9	13
Aberporth	2.5	0.00	13	16
Belfast	1.4	0.00	11	16
Birmingham	4.8	0.00	13	18
Bournemouth	4.1	0.00	10	20
Bristol	4.1	0.00	14	18
Cardiff	2.4	0.01	12	18
Durham	7.2	0.00	9	18
Edinburgh	5.7	0.00	6	17
Glasgow	9.3	0.00	7	17
Hull	4.9	0.00	12	17
Ipswich	2.7	0.00	10	18
Leeds	4.5	0.00	11	18
Lincoln	2.4	0.00	11	17
London	1.9	0.00	13	19
Manchester	6.4	0.00	11	16
Southampton	5.5	0.00	13	20
St Andrews	7.6	0.00	6	17
Stornoway	4.8	0.12	7	13

Information supplied by Meteogroup

Moon and Sun

MOON rises: 9.39pm, sets: 1.58pm
Sun rises London: 6.36am, sets: 7.13pm
Manchester rises: 6.44am, sets: 7.22pm

HIGH TIDE London Bridge: 6.31pm
Liverpool: 3.36pm

Extremes (24 hrs to 6pm y'day) **Warmest:** Pershore, Worcestershire, 21c (70f). **Coldest:** Shap, Cumbria, 3c (37f). **Wettest:** Aviemore, Inverness-shire, 0.32ins. **Sunniest:** Glasgow, Glasgow, 9.3hrs.

Europe forecast

	today	c	f	tomorrow	c	f
Amsterdam	showers	16	61	showers	16	61
Brussels	showers	14	57	showers	14	57
Frankfurt	showers	16	61	showers	15	59
Geneva	fair	21	70	fair	15	59
Lisbon	fair	26	79	sun	29	84
Madrid	sun	28	82	sun	28	82
Paris	fair	17	63	sun	18	64
Rome	fair	28	82	sun	27	81

Around the world yesterday

Noon local time

	weather	c	f
Algiers	Fair	31	88
Amsterdam	Fair	19	66
Athens	Sunny	29	84
Auckland	Fair	14	57
Bahrain	Sunny	40	104
Barcelona	Sunny	29	84
Basra	Sunny	42	108
Beijing	Sunny	27	81
Beirut	Sunny	29	84
Belfast	Fair	15	59
Belgrade	Fair	28	82
Berlin	Fair	18	64
Biarritz	Fair	24	75
Brisbane	Cloudy	21	70
Brussels	Cloudy	18	64
Bucharest	Sunny	30	86
Budapest	Fair	27	81
Cairo	Sunny	29	84
Cape Town	Sunny	21	70
Casablanca	Sunny	26	79
Copenhagen	Cloudy	16	61
Corfu	Fair	27	81
Dubai	Fair	41	106
Dublin	Cloudy	15	59
Dubrovnik	Fair	26	79
Faro	Fair	23	73
Florence	Showers	26	79
Geneva	Cloudy	21	70
Gibraltar	Cloudy	23	73
Guernsey	Fair	18	64
Helsinki	Showers	13	55
Hong Kong	Fair	33	91
Innsbruck	Thunder	21	70
Istanbul	Sunny	25	77
Jersey	Fair	18	64
Larnaca	Sunny	30	86
Las Palmas	Sunny	27	81
Lisbon	Fair	23	73
London	Cloudy	17	63
Los Angeles	Fair	26	79
Luxor	Sunny	34	93
Madrid	Cloudy	19	66
Malaga	Sunny	29	84
Malta	Sunny	29	84
Melbourne	Cloudy	14	57
Mexico City	Cloudy	20	68
Miami	Cloudy	31	88
Milan	Sunny	28	82
Montreal	Cloudy	22	72
Moscow	Drizzle	13	55
Mumbai	Fair	30	86
Nairobi	Cloudy	18	64
New Delhi	Fair	30	86
New York	Sunny	25	77
Nice	Sunny	27	81
Oslo	Fair	15	59
Palma	Sunny	30	86
Paris	Fair	20	68
Perth	Cloudy	18	64
Prague	Rain	14	57
Rhodes	Sunny	28	82
Riga	Cloudy	14	57
Rome	Sunny	27	81
Singapore	Fair	30	86
Stockholm	Showers	12	54
Strasbourg	Cloudy	17	63
Sydney	Showers	18	64
Tangier	Fair	23	73
Tel Aviv	Sunny	30	86
Tenerife	Sunny	27	81
Tokyo	Cloudy	26	79
Toronto	Cloudy	23	73
Tunis	Sunny	37	99
Vancouver	Fair	19	66
Venice	Fair	27	81
Vienna	Showers	22	72
Warsaw	Fair	18	64
Wellington	Fair	12	54

Spectacular: The fireball on Wednesday

Was fireball a harbinger for a happy reign?

By **Xantha Leatham**
Science Correspondent

JUST a few hours after the doors to Westminster Hall opened to the Queen's devoted public a fireball shot across the night sky.

There was a time when such a sight would have been taken as an omen – and even now it is enough to induce wonder.

However, experts believe the fireball was part of an asteroid burning up as it hit the Earth's atmosphere at more than 31,000 miles per hour – and not a sign from the heavens. It was seen by thousands in Scotland, northern England and Northern Ireland on Wednesday at around 9pm.

Alan McGowan, of Dunblane in Stirlingshire, said: 'I saw it arc low across the sky – a burning ball of green with an orange tail of flaming debris.'

Readers revolt over the 'snarky' royal coverage in the NY Times

By **Neil Sears**

THE New York Times has been hit with a fresh backlash from readers appalled at its attacks on the Royal Family.

The Left-leaning American newspaper's latest sour article attacked the 'hefty price tag' of the Queen's state funeral and mourning ceremonies, saying they would cost British taxpayers more than £5 million.

But readers hit back online, with some threatening to cancel the £14-a-month subscriptions the paper relies on.

The New York Times last week sparked controversy by

'Anti-British propaganda'

publishing a piece by Harvard history professor Maya Jasanoff, which decried attempts to 'romanticise' the royals. It said: 'The Queen helped obscure a bloody history of decolonisation whose proportions and legacies have yet to be adequately acknowledged.'

Critics of the paper's 'disrespectful' stance hit back yesterday – and threatened to do so with their wallets.

Doreen Wilson wrote on Twitter: 'Your newspaper has been unfailingly full of snark, on a story that doesn't belong to you. Disappointing. I subscribed for five years but you've confirmed the wisdom of letting it go.'

Another Twitter user, Robert Corbishley, said the funeral cost per Briton was 'less per person than the price of one copy of your "newspaper".'

Journalist and broadcaster Andrew Neil added: 'Amazing scoop from The New York Times reveals that Queen's funeral will be paid out of taxation. Must be a first for any head of state anywhere. Or maybe there are no depths to which The New York Times won't stoop in its anti-British propaganda.'

The New York Times has published a number of attacks on British tradition in recent years – and not always with complete accuracy.

It paid British comedian Tom Walker to produce videos ridiculing his own country. As fictitious journalist Jonathan Pie, Walker called former prime minister Boris Johnson 'a c*** of the highest order' and claimed: 'You can't get in or out of the country because of airline staff shortages and queues at border control.'

The newspaper has also struggled to shake off the outdated beliefs of some Americans that Britain remains shrouded in the pea-soup fogs and austerity of the 1850s.

A New York Times travel writer claimed just four years ago that he struggled to find a London restaurant menu offering alternatives to 'porridge and boiled mutton'.

Comment – Page 26

Scan this QR code to read the 1965 article

Robinson sorry for his Mail quote gaffe

By **Imogen Horton**

BBC presenter Nick Robinson has apologised after he quoted Vincent Mulchrone's 'two rivers' metaphor without attribution.

The late Daily Mail journalist coined the phrase in his famous article in 1965 following the death of Sir Winston Churchill.

'Two rivers run silently through London tonight and one is made of people,' he wrote, describing the former prime minister's lying-in-state at Westminster Hall for three days from January 26.

During yesterday's BBC Radio 4 Today programme, Robinson, 58, described the queue to see the late Queen as a 'vast river of people'. 'London has not one but two rivers this morning,' he said.

The former BBC political editor later tweeted an apology saying he 'didn't know' the metaphor's origins and 'should have'.

Two rivers: Robinson

Day Queen's piper revealed he was a true Scot

Chilling moment: Royal piper Scott Methven

THE Queen's personal piper accidentally revealed he was a 'true Scotsman' when the wind lifted up his kilt up in front of her, he said yesterday.

Scott Methven, 48, said he was 'briefly exposed' while playing the bagpipes on a windy morning outside Windsor Castle, and said the Queen later joked about the incident.

'One very windy morning, while I was playing at Windsor Castle, my kilt was blown up and, being a "true Scotsman", I was briefly exposed,' said Mr Methven in The Spectator magazine. When he returned to the Castle one the Queen's aides joked about the incident.

He added: 'Later, while I was escorting Her Majesty, she asked me if it had been a particularly cold morning.'

By **Vanessa Allen**

The former Pipe Major served as the Queen's personal piper from 2015 to 2019, playing outside her window each day at 9am at the various palaces as part of the Royal Household.

He said: 'The Queen was not only disarmingly quick-witted and someone who liked to joke, but she was also caring and devoted to her staff.'

He left the Army after 25 years in 2019, and now teaches the bagpipes.

Harry 'back in his uniform' for vigil of grandchildren

By **Niamh Lynch**

PRINCE Harry will wear his military uniform for a lying-in-state vigil tomorrow after receiving special permission from royal officials, it was claimed last night.

Buckingham Palace reportedly intervened to allow Harry to wear his military uniform at a vigil staged by the late Queen's grandchildren at Westminster Hall.

Prince Harry and his brother William, alongside the Queen's six other grandchildren, will stand in silence for a 15-minute vigil beside her coffin.

A royal source told the Daily Mirror: 'Common sense has prevailed.

'It was a ludicrous situation given the Duke of Sussex has served his country and is a highly respected member of the Armed Forces with everything he has done for veterans.

'It is important that the Queen's grandchildren are all made to feel welcome and comfortable as they grieve their beloved grandmother together.'

Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, Zara Tindall and Peter Phillips as well as Lady Louise and James, Viscount Severn will also form part of the guard of honour tomorrow evening.

'Respected member of the Armed Forces'

The Duke of Sussex and his disgraced uncle Prince Andrew were forced to wear suits at events honouring the Queen because they are no longer working royals.

King Charles's younger child, who served on two front-line tours of duty in Afghanistan, wore a morning suit on Wednesday in a procession of the Queen's coffin through the streets of London in her final departure from Buckingham Palace. Other royal family members were in military uniform adorned with medals.

Harry's spokesman had released a statement on Tuesday asking that the 'focus remain on the life and legacy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II' instead of his outfit choices.

'Prince Harry will wear a morning suit throughout events honouring his grandmother.

'His decade of military service is not determined by the uniform he wears,' it added.

After the Duke and Duchess of Sussex quit their royal duties in 2020, Prince Harry was stripped of his beloved military appointments and banned from wearing his military uniforms in public.

Andrew's military titles and royal patronages were removed in January this year as he faced civil action taken by Virginia Giuffre, who alleges the prince sexually abused her when she was 17.

Andrew, who vehemently denies the allegations, later settled the civil action in a multi-million-pound deal.

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The Sussexes: Harry and Meghan with Archie and baby Lilibet

Decision on titles for Archie and Lilibet is put on hold

By **Rebecca English**
Royal Editor

THERE will be no announcement on any future titles for Harry and Meghan's children during the period of royal mourning.

Following the death of their great-grandmother, Archie and Lilibet are sixth and seventh in line to the throne, and are entitled to be called prince and princess.

But Buckingham Palace has refused to confirm if this will officially happen.

And yesterday a spokesman for King Charles said it was 'unlikely' that any announcement would be made until at least September 26, when the period of royal mourning ends. They told the Daily Mail: 'The King is focused on the mourning period so it is unlikely [any announcement would be made] on other titles during that period.

'The future is an amazing thing. I am sure that at some point there will be discussion, but not during the royal mourning period.'

The Sun newspaper claimed that 'tense' discussions had taken place over the issue.

MONARCH WHO SHAPED OUR LIVES 1997-2022

by DOMINIC SANDBROOK

As long as people still love all that Britain is and means, and as long as we remain a proud and independent land, we will remember ELIZABETH THE GOOD and thank

IN THE concluding part of his series on how Elizabeth II shaped modern Britain, historian DOMINIC SANDBROOK describes how, as she led the celebrations for royal weddings, the Olympics and three Jubilees, the Queen cemented her role as the beloved grandmother of the nation...

FOR two decades, as controversy swirled around her family, the Queen had been a victim of events. It was as though Fate, which had given her so much, had finally turned against her.

But with the death of Diana in August 1997, the mood changed. The public appetite for scandals seemed sated. The monarchy had been wounded, but it remained unbowed.

And amid all the gossip and criticism, the Queen herself had simply kept going, a model of duty and dedication, as though convinced that, in the end, her people would remember the value of what she did.

And she was right.

At the turn of the new millennium, Elizabeth was 73. Her conservative tastes and unchanging habits now were world-famous, from her love of flat racing to her adored corgis.

In her Christmas message to the Commonwealth in 2000, she gave a rare insight into the simple, unflinching Christian faith that had kept her going all those years.

'For me,' she explained, 'the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example.'

These were not, of course, fashionable views. But in many ways it was the Queen's studied indifference to fashion — her embodiment of the values of duty and service and self-control — that most endeared her to her people.

Her Prime Minister, Tony Blair, had not even been born when Elizabeth came to the throne. A moderniser who professed to wear his heart on his sleeve, he could hardly have been more different from his monarch.

THE gulf between them was captured in an infamously excruciating moment at the Millennium Dome on New Year's Eve 1999, when the Prime Minister linked arms with a visibly uncomfortable Queen during Auld Lang Syne.

Blair's political honeymoon, however, proved relatively short-lived, and as his star inexorably fell, Elizabeth's began to rise again.

As usual, her critics predicted that her Golden Jubilee in 2002 would be a flop — and as usual, they were completely wrong.

The year began with an enormously successful tour of Jamaica, New Zealand and Australia, where Elizabeth was greeted by vast and enthusiastic crowds.

At the final banquet in Jamaica, a power cut plunged the room into darkness, but the Queen was unperturbed; it had been, she remarked after with dry understatement, a 'memorable' occasion.

The Jubilee celebrations in London, meanwhile, were a triumph, the highlight being an unprecedented concert at Buckingham Palace, headlined by Paul McCartney, Eric Clapton and Brian May, who ended the evening by playing his version of God Save The Queen from the palace roof.

Of course, nobody seriously thought that Elizabeth herself liked this kind of thing. But it was a reminder of one of her greatest virtues: her ability, honed over decades, to push the monarchy gently along with the times, never ahead of public opinion, but never too far behind, either.

Given that she was now distinctly elderly, her stamina was simply extraordinary. Even in her 70s and 80s, she dutifully followed a schedule that would put many world leaders to shame.

She was open to new ideas, too.

In 2001 she got her first mobile phone, and for years it was reported that she had dispatched one of her aides to buy her an iPod. In 2011, after Princes William and Harry had shown her their tablet computers, she was impressed enough to buy an iPad, too.

A greater concession to changing times was the Queen's acceptance of Prince Charles's consort, Camilla Parker Bowles. When the couple were married in a civil ceremony in 2005, Elizabeth and Philip not only attended the blessing afterwards, but hosted a reception for them at Windsor Castle.

Indeed, Camilla's acceptance seemed to bring a new mood of domestic tranquillity, the quarrels of the past largely forgotten.

Elizabeth herself had aged gracefully. While politicians rose and fell, their reputations tarnished by such scandals as the cash-for-honours affair and the revelations about MPs' expenses, her own image remained remarkably unblemished.

HER transition to the role of nation's grandmother was now complete, and when TV documentaries showed her Balmoral sitting room, complete with family photographs, beds for the corgis, a simple electric heater and an embroidered cushion with the slogan 'It's good to be Queen', many viewers were struck by the sense of reassuring familiarity.

By the beginning of the 2010s, in fact, the popularity of the monarchy had undergone a startling renaissance.

Elizabeth's emphasis on tradition and stability, leavened by gentle adaptation, had paid off. And if the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton in 2011 was a triumph, it was merely the curtain-raiser for an extraordinary royal celebration a year later.

Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 — the first such event since Victoria's in 1897 — proved a sensational success.

Not even the Queen herself could have expected that a million people would line the Thames in pouring rain to watch her progress down the river as part of the thousand-strong flotilla, or that a further 17 million people would tune in the next day to watch the Diamond Jubilee Concert in front of Buckingham Palace.

At the end, when her son Charles paid an emotional tribute to her in front of a live TV audience, thanking her for 'inspiring us with your selfless duty and service and for making us proud to be British', Elizabeth herself looked faintly embarrassed. She had, after all, been born into a world where

Pictures: BUCKINGHAM PALACE/AFP/GETTY; SHUTTERSTOCK

Warmth and wit: A smiling Queen in 2016, left, and, above, the iconic Paddington sketch filmed for this year's Platinum Jubilee

God

public expressions of emotion were frowned upon, and had grown up in an atmosphere of tight self-discipline.

Around the country, though, millions of people watched with lumps in their throats. And after six decades of unstinting service, Elizabeth deserved every word of it.

What she had understood, almost from the very beginning, is that the key to a successful monarchy was a blend of continuity and adaptation. The Queen must appear dignified, but not inhuman.

And if proof were needed she had mellowed over the years, it came a few weeks later at the opening ceremony of the London Olympics.

When the television coverage cut to a pre-recorded film showing James Bond walking into Buckingham Palace, none of the 900 million people watching around the world could have imagined that the Queen herself would put in a cameo appearance — let alone that she would allow herself to be shown jumping out of a helicopter into the stadium.

None of her predecessors would have countenanced such a stunt. What her old governess Crawfie would have made of it, let alone her father and grandfather, can barely be imagined.

But in that moment of witty self-deprecation, Elizabeth showed how far she had come since those rigorously disciplined schooldays back in the 1930s. She had become the Queen Britain needed, a lighter, more accessible monarch for a less deferential, more individualistic age.

To the fury of the tiny, insignificant band of republicans, she had cemented the place of the monarchy in popular affections.

Other institutions, from the police and the NHS to Parliament and the Church of England, had lost their lustre. Yet the Royal Family seemed more popular than ever, with four in five people enthusiastically backing the monarchy. Yet all the time the wheel of fortune continued to turn.

The joy of Prince Harry's wedding to Meghan Markle in 2018 soon gave way to intense controversy.

By the spring of 2020, Harry and Meghan had decamped to California, and they later embarked on a round of lucrative interviews attacking his family for their supposed cruelty and racism.

As usual, the Queen said nothing in public. Yet to a grandmother in her 90s, this must have come as a deep and painful blow.

But the controversy made virtually no difference to the Queen's popularity. Few blamed her for her grandson's behaviour, and older Britons, in particular, reacted with sorrow and sympathy.

The cruellest blow of all fell on April 9, 2021, when her Prince Philip died at the age of 99. For decades he had stood at her side, a model of loyalty, supportiveness, love and comradeship.

At his funeral, the cameras caught Elizabeth sitting alone with her grief, isolated by Covid restrictions. Few people were left unmoved. Even in this, perhaps the darkest hour of her reign, Elizabeth always put her country first.

In the early weeks of the pandemic, a staggering 24 million people had tuned in to watch her reassuring broadcast to the nation. In an extraordinarily moving address, she recalled her youthful service during World War II, paid tribute to the staff of the NHS and urged her people to recapture the same spirit that had beaten the Nazis.

Nobody else could have rallied the nation as she did. But as always, she knew precisely what to say, cementing her place in the hearts of her people.

In retrospect, the Platinum Jubilee earlier this year now seems like a magnificent send-off, a last opportunity to thank the monarch for a lifetime of service.

Seventy years earlier, Elizabeth could scarcely have imagined that she would one day have tea with Paddington Bear before tens of millions of viewers. Yet when her little friend said those closing words — 'Thank you, for everything' — he spoke not just for the nation, but for the entire Commonwealth.

Indeed, it speaks volumes about Elizabeth's devotion to her country that even in her final days, when she held audiences with Boris Johnson and Liz Truss, she thought only of her duty. How many of us, at the age of 96, would do the same?

At the end of her long and eventful life, therefore, she could look back on a job not well done, but magnificently done.

In a reign of extraordinary longevity, she had seen tremendous changes. The Empire was gone, the Cold War was over and Britain became a reluctant member of an expanding European Union.

Immigration had altered the face and flavour of British life; foreign travel had expanded her people's horizons; and the advent of computers had changed everything, from mass communications to everyday shopping.

ELIZABETH herself had changed, of course. By the end of her life she was a more relaxed, even more informal person than she had been as a young woman, when she sometimes seemed stiff and self-conscious.

Even her accent had changed, with studies of her Christmas broadcasts revealing that her voice had become less clipped and aristocratic over the years — although, of course, it was still unmistakably hers.

But the key to Elizabeth's success was that in an age of international turbulence and social flux, she had always held fast to the values she had learned as a child. From the moment she took her first steps as a public figure until the end of her life, she almost never slipped up.

She became the personification not just of British patriotism, but of old-fashioned British virtues — values often mocked as outdated, but ones that millions of ordinary people still admired.

To her politicians, duty and self-sacrifice were merely words. But to Elizabeth, they were the points on her moral compass.

In many ways she had enjoyed fewer opportunities to shine than most of the men and women who had ruled Britain before her. She never led an army into battle, as Edward III or Henry V had done.

She never had to fight off the Spanish Armada, like her Tudor namesake. She never led her country through a world war, like her father and grandfather.

And unlike Victoria, who presided over the British Empire at its greatest extent, she ruled a country whose economic and military importance was gradually declining, and which faced a painful reckoning with the realities of the new world order.

BUT that only made Elizabeth's achievement all the greater. More than any of her predecessors, she won the hearts of her subjects through unflagging hard work and quiet, sober simplicity.

Hers was the triumph of selflessness, virtue, self-discipline and responsibility. Indeed, it spoke volumes that at the end of her life, almost nobody remembered that she had not actually been born to be Queen — the royal line diverted by her uncle's abdication.

Above all, she kept her word. On her 21st birthday, in 1947, she told her people that her entire life would be devoted to their service. All these years later, we know how handsomely that promise was kept.

Now a new chapter begins under her son, King Charles. But it's yet another tribute to her extraordinary achievement that the popularity of the monarchy has rarely been greater, with enormous crowds queuing this week to pay their respects to their late sovereign and to salute their new King.

When historians look back on her years on the throne, they will surely judge that, more than any monarch in our history, she deserved the undying gratitude of her people.

Most people remember surprisingly few of our kings and queens. We picture Alfred burning the cakes, or Henry V leading his troops into battle, Henry VIII and his six wives, Elizabeth I rallying her sailors, or Victoria in funereal black, but most of the others have faded into relative obscurity.

But as long as people still love everything that Britain is and Britain means, as long as the royal standard flies over London, and as long as we remain a proud and independent people, men and women will remember Elizabeth the Good, and will thank God for one of the greatest monarchs in our history.

Daily Mail
COMMENT

Spellbinding send-off will be fit for a Queen

THE elaborate ceremonies held since the Queen's death have been breathtaking in their magnificence and grandeur.

The Accession Council to proclaim King Charles. The thanksgiving service at St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh. The poignant procession as Her Majesty was laid in state.

But even these will be eclipsed by Elizabeth II's state funeral. The most spellbinding and distinguished of all the occasions, it will truly be fit for a Queen.

The greatest constitutional monarch this country – indeed, the world – has seen, she performed her challenging and demanding role faithfully and devotedly for 70 years. This is the least we can do for her.

The late monarch's coffin will be borne on a 123-year-old gun carriage for a powerfully symbolic ceremony at Westminster Abbey, before she makes her final journey to Windsor Castle, where she will be buried alongside her beloved husband Philip.

The logistics, of course, will be formidable. But in a victory for common sense, officials have decreed that the Queen's coffin will take byroads, not the motorway, to her resting place, giving hundreds of thousands more a chance to line the route.

With 30-hour queues to file past her coffin at Westminster Hall, and millions cramming into London for the funeral, many wouldn't otherwise get the chance to say farewell.

By pragmatically amending arrangements, it means if mourners cannot go to the monarch, she can come to more of them.

Scrap the bonus cap

ON the face of it, there is bad timing, worse timing and the Chancellor saying he wants to scrap the cap on bankers' bonuses.

With families being pummelled by the cost of living crisis and the Government urging pay restraint, the plan seems like a PR disaster. Not long ago, bankers' reckless greed brought Britain's financial services to the brink of collapse, so queasiness at them again being allowed to shamelessly plunder vast rewards is understandable.

But if Kwasi Kwarteng is determined to hit the accelerator on growth, he must improve the City's global competitiveness.

By unshackling it from EU bonus-capping regulations, the Treasury will make the Square Mile more attractive to international talent and investment – ultimately making us more prosperous.

Yes, critics warn that uncapped bonuses could lead to the kind of excessive risk-taking that led to the financial crash. But new and tougher penalties should deter irresponsibility and misconduct.

Mr Kwarteng should ignore the Left's outraged howls and dig his heels in on this policy. His job is to make the right calls for the economy – not to wilt before banker-bashing populism.

The New York Whines

LIKE a demented stalker, the once-esteemed New York Times newspaper has a very unhealthy obsession with Britain.

Ever since we voted for Brexit, the sanctimonious Left-wing rag has launched a fusillade of gratuitous attacks against us.

In a litany of laughably negative stories, it says we dine out on boiled mutton, huddle round bin fires for warmth – and we're so racist we drove out Meghan.

The Grey Lady's even turned her ghoulish gaze on the Queen, poisonously – and falsely – denouncing the dead monarch as a symbol of colonialism. Now it moans that UK taxpayers struggling to heat homes must foot the bill for the state funeral for... the head of state. What an amazing scoop!

What sticks in the craw is the paper's sickening hypocrisy. Firstly, American taxpayers themselves are paying huge sums to fly President Biden here for the service.

And second, how has it the audacity to portray Britain as a Dickensian dystopia, when swathes of the US are crime-plagued, poverty-stricken, racially-riven hellholes?

Suddenly I no longer feel like a grumpy misfit lost in a Britain I don't recognise

TOM UTLEY

THERE have been times over the past few years when, like so many others of my generation, I've felt out of place in a Britain that seemed hardly recognisable as the country I'd been brought up to love.

The virtues I'd been taught to admire from my birth in the Coronation year — uncomplaining stoicism in the face of adversity; self-sacrifice and self-restraint; modesty; good humour; pride in our history and traditions; politeness and consideration for others — all seemed to have gone out of fashion, as surely as bowler hats, the Pogo stick and the Slinky.

Think of Rudyard Kipling's most famous poem, If, and you'll understand the qualities I have in mind — the sort, I was brought up to believe, that made us proud to be British.

I'm not claiming for one moment that I possessed them myself, to any significant degree. All I mean is that my fellow Britons, who in my youth believed almost unanimously that these were great virtues, no longer seemed to think them particularly admirable or worth aspiring to, in this me-me-me age of the selfie, the bilious Twitterstorm, The Jeremy Kyle Show and Naked Attraction.

Indeed, aspects of modern Britain left me bewildered. I'm thinking of the glorification of victimhood, real and imagined; the mania for pulling down statues of men once regarded as public benefactors; and some of the idiocies spawned by Harriet Harman's Equality Act.

Virtues

(Why on Earth, for example, did my local authority feel it important to know my sexual orientation, ethnic background, religious beliefs and gender identity before I could unburden myself of my views on a proposal to install traffic-calming humps on my road? Totally irrelevant, I thought, and none of the council's business.)

More and more, I felt like a washed-up relic of a vanishing age, a grumpy misfit in a land peopled by a strange breed with whom I had little in common — least of all when it came to my views on the difference between right and wrong, and the proper way to behave towards our fellow human beings.

But I now see that I was guilty of attaching far too much weight to the picture of our country presented by ranters on social media, exhibitionists on trashy TV shows and politicians terrified of annoying vociferous pressure groups, no matter how few people they may have represented.

What has changed my mind is the public's huge outpouring of love and respect for our late, beloved Queen. Suddenly I feel at home again among my fellow countrymen and women, young and old.

Here was a woman who was the living embodiment of all those abstract virtues I've listed above. Indeed, it was these very qualities of hers that touched such a chord in the hearts of so many of us.

Time and again since her death, those who have been asked why the Queen meant so much to them have come up with the same reasons: her commitment to duty and public service; her selflessness, modesty and unfailing interest in other people; her quiet sense of humour — evinced by her radiant smile — and the way she preserved her apparent ordinariness throughout her extraordinary life.

I'm not thinking only of those smartly dressed men and women, with posh accents and archaic titles, who have been wheeled out by the TV companies to sing her praises. We've heard the same sentiments, again and again, from the crowds who have lined the roadside to bow to her passing hearse, or queued for hours along the south bank of the Thames to pay homage at her lying-in-state on the other side of the river.

Of course, I'm well aware that huge numbers would have turned out to witness the pomp and pageantry of any monarch's obsequies, whether he or she had been a good or a bad person.

Affection

But I think we must all agree that in the case of Elizabeth II, the crowds have been drawn by something that goes far beyond the wish to see the Grenadier Guards, the Royal Horse Artillery and the rest doing their magnificent stuff with the discipline and precision for which they're world-famous.

They've been drawn by profound affection and respect for the late Queen, born of a deep appreciation of her sheer goodness.

I've been struck by the number of people who've said this week that she reminded them of their own mothers or grandmothers, and even that she looked like them.

I was going to say the same about my own dear, late mum — and I suppose it would have been true, up to a point, insofar as she and the Queen were both shortish and good-looking (alas, I take after my father, who wasn't), with similar hairstyles and the same liking for handbags and headscarves.

Having been born only a year apart, they also wore similar fashions through the decades (the great difference being that my mother either bought her frocks from M&S or, more often, sewed her own).

But, let's face it, they didn't really look much alike. I suspect that so many of us saw similarities to our own near and dear, of that wartime generation, because of their attitude to life; their selflessness, kindness to others and determination to keep smiling through, whatever fate might throw at them.

This past week has reassured me that those qualities are far from dead in modern Britain, and that the great majority of us appreciate and aspire to them still.

Ask anyone who has joined the queue for the lying-in-state (as I am determined to do tonight, having attended both Churchill's and the Queen Mum's) and you will be told that almost everyone there, of every race and creed under the sun, is friendly, patient and polite — the very virtues that the Queen personified.

Civilised

Don't be deceived by the loud-mouths and show-offs who spread their misanthropy through social media. Among all those hundreds of thousands in the queue for Westminster Hall, and the millions more who mourn all over the country, I reckon you'll find the true and enduring spirit of the civilised, common-sense Britain I was brought up to love.

Indeed, I'm reminded of that sublime observation by one of my heroes, the 18th-century statesman Edmund Burke: 'Because half a dozen grasshoppers under a fern make the field ring with their importunate chink, whilst thousands of great cattle, reposed beneath the shadow of the British oak, chew the cud and are silent, pray do not imagine that those who make the noise are the only inhabitants of the field.'

But let me end with an idea which, I see from today's last instalment of his masterly series on the Queen, has also occurred to the historian Dominic Sandbrook.

Yes, I know that many, including Boris Johnson, have suggested that the late Queen should be known to history as Elizabeth the Great. But surely 'the Great' implies huge power and magnificence (think of Alexander, Alfred, Charlemagne, or Catherine of Russia).

I reckon the epithet doesn't quite catch the essence of Elizabeth II, who had very little power under our constitutional monarchy, and generally preferred country picnics and Tupperware tubs to the splendours thrust upon her by her hereditary office.

Meanwhile, others have suggested Elizabeth the Dutiful. But doesn't that sound a little patronising to you?

No, in my book, she deserves much higher praise for a quality that sets her apart from a great many of her ancestors. Mr Sandbrook is right. Let's call her Elizabeth the Good.

EXCLUSIVE
by RICHARD KAY

EDITOR AT LARGE

Picture: BBC

Close Bond: Paul Whybrew and the Queen in the London Olympics 007 sketch

For 44 years, he was the 6ft 4in man at her side. This week he was given pride of place in front of her coffin. And, as RICHARD KAY reveals, she always told him her naughtiest jokes!

Tall Paul keeper of the QUEEN'S SECRETS

EVEN on a day brimming with historical significance, it was still one of the most striking images to emerge out of that extraordinary procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall on Wednesday.

As, tall and upright as the ceremonial guardsmen all around him, stood the unmistakeable figure of the Queen's most loyal, most devoted and longest-serving retainer.

Balding and bemedalled in tails, Paul Whybrew, who was with the Queen at the closing of her life, was a picture of iron determination. His hands clenched, he looked neither to left nor right but focused only forwards as he marched in step ahead of the horse-drawn carriage bearing his mistress's coffin.

He was one of only three of Her Majesty's male domestic staff invited to join the cortege — but his placement in the middle of the throng underlined not just his seniority but his unique position in the Queen's life. Quite simply she could manage without anyone apart from the man she knew affectionately as 'Tall Paul' — and his decades of unbroken service proved that.

At 6ft 4in he was, of course, hard to ignore. But it was not his height that made him so indispensable. Rather it was that through all the domestic crises, family storms and petty squabbling between staff and courtiers, he was never drawn in and escaped unscathed.

Indeed, he was said to have all friends and no enemies among the Royal Family he had served since the age of 19. And in the backbiting, below-stairs world of royal preference where favourites jostle, that in itself is a remarkable achievement.

It was Paul who would hand the Queen the telephone for those anguished calls from Prince Harry, ringing from California. Paul who set out the Radio Times with the times of her favourite TV programmes thoughtfully ringed. And it was Paul who, once she stopped drinking, substituted apple juice for her former tipple of gin and Dubonnet.

The bank manager's son had been at the Queen's side for 44 years and, as she had seen the records fall as our longest reigning monarch, so too had Paul. A year ago he became the longest-serving member of the Queen's staff at Buckingham Palace, favoured with the Royal Victorian Order and Medal — silver and gold — and decorated for his long and faithful service.

He also has his own comfortably furnished quarters, for which she personally paid the renovation costs. When in 2006 the Queen turned 80 and decided to spend more time at Windsor Castle, she asked him to move too. He gave up his modest flat above the old stables at Kensington Palace for a house near Albert Lodge in Windsor Great Park.

'The Queen told him to decorate it to his taste and send her the bill. She said she wanted him to be comfortable,' a friend says.

The move was a pivotal moment in his life of royal service. It was the one and only time when he paused to consider his years of dedication. Inevitably he stayed.

As Page of the Backstairs and Serjeant at Arms, Whybrew, who will be 64 next year, has committed all his working life to the monarch. Unlike many other servants who move between households, Paul remained steadfast alongside the Queen.

Arriving just after the Silver Jubilee, he was there for the Golden Jubilee in 2002, the Diamond Jubilee when the Queen shivered on the rain-soaked Thames in 2012 and, just a few months ago, this year's Platinum jamboree.

He was there for some of the darkest moments of her reign, the years of her children's marital discord, and some of the most uplifting.

And of course, it was Paul who was pictured escorting the Queen and James Bond star Daniel Craig as part of the magical spoof that opened the London Olympics.

He also played a key role in one of the most notorious incidents when an intruder broke into the Palace and made his way undetected into the sleeping Queen's bedroom in 1982. When the alarm was raised it was Whybrew who coolly steered the trespasser into the butler's pantry, poured him a glass of whisky, then detained him until the police arrived.

There was often laughter. When the Queen looked out on the heavy rain falling on the day in April 1986 when the Royal Family were burying the Duchess of Windsor, the former American adventuress Wallis Simpson, she worried about the open grave filling with water.

Turning to Paul and another aide, she quipped: 'If we don't bail it out, we will be launching her.'

All those years of service, however, have not been without sacrifice. He has remained a bachelor, 'married' only, say friends, to his duty. But in return he has occupied one of the most intriguing seats in modern British history.

Growing up in Essex there was no tradition of working for the Royal Family. A grandfather was manager of a drapery and outfitters, while a brother is a solicitor. Paul, the second oldest of four siblings was born in Braintree in 1959.

He was quickly spotted because of his way with the corgis

The family moved to Frinton on the Essex coast and when he left nearby Clacton High School he had already had his heart set on royal employment.

His first post was as a junior footman but he was quickly spotted by the Queen because of his way with the corgis.

The promotion was to be the source of his nickname and would see him working alongside another royal favourite Paul Burrell, who later became Princess Diana's butler. To differentiate between the two men the Queen christened Burrell 'Small Paul' and Whybrew 'Tall Paul.' The term of endearment stuck.

Even this week, his presence in the lying-in-state entourage was being noted on social media. One posted: 'Tall Paul, her trusted page.' Another wrote: 'At the head of the procession, walking behind the band, is this man — the Queen's page and sergeant-at-arms Paul Whybrew. He's been by the Queen's side for 44 years of her 70-year reign. Companion as well as servant. Now accompanying her one last time.'

Over the years staff came and went but in the Queen's household Whybrew was a constant presence. His position, and the trust the Queen showed him, earned him another nickname — 'Keeper of the Queen's secrets'.

Very few doubt that he will ever spill them. It makes the contrast between the servant and another of her circle, her senior dresser and personal assistant Angela Kelly, all the more fascinating.

Where the Liverpool crane-driver's daughter is outgoing and boastful of her closeness to the Queen, Whybrew is discreet and modest.

It is unlikely he will accept a three-book contract as Miss Kelly has — two published already, a third still to come. And while Angela longed to be made a dame, according to friends Whybrew sought no such personal advancement.

'He knew that he could have walked into any job in the private sector and earn far more than he does, but it never crossed his mind,' a friend tells me. 'He felt his place was at the Queen's side as long as she wanted him and the fact is she always wanted him. She trusted him implicitly and he knew everything but would never say.'

When the Queen came up with the touching idea to have Prince Philip's insignia set into a stained-glass window as a tribute to her late husband, it was Paul who found the ideal spot — an anteroom off one of the main private reception rooms at Sandringham House.

In Frinton-on-Sea, the sedate seaside town Princess Margaret used to visit, there is huge pride in the local boy who became the Queen's rock.

Paul's mother Jean died almost exactly a year ago aged 88, while his father Derrick, who has written a history of the local Baptist church, is a respected community elder.

It is a remarkable commentary on the Queen's long life, that from all the people of power and influence whom she befriended and all the well-born and expensively educated people surrounding the Royal Family, it is the modest bank manager's son from Essex with whom she was often at her most relaxed and happiest.

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LITTLEJOHN

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Why don't we put migrants on a bus and send them to places keen on mass migration – just like they do in Texas

THE number of immigrants illegally crossing the Channel has already overtaken the record 28,000 who arrived by dinghy last year.

Another 3,500 landed in the first two weeks of this month, 601 on Monday alone. According to Nigel Farage — who has been bang on the money since this exodus began — there are at least 5,000 camped out on the French coast waiting for their number to come up on the escape committee.

Once they put to sea they will be given safe passage by the people-smugglers' complimentary water taxi services, aka Britain's Border Force and the RNLI.

When they land in Kent, the chances of them being sent back are less than zero. The so-called 'fast track' removals system is currently a year behind schedule.

It has been revealed that Albanian gangsters are offering a tantalising three-for-the-price-of-two deal, so the influx is only set to increase exponentially over the next couple of months.

Meanwhile, the Blob continues to scupper all attempts to tackle this crisis and British taxpayers are being forced to cough up for no less than 40 barristers on legal aid to obstruct Priti Flamingo's plan to send illegals to Rwanda.

When the deportation scheme was announced in the spring, civil servants threatened to go on strike to stop it happening.

Priti has now been replaced as Home Secretary by Sue Ellen Braverman, who will face fierce resistance from within her own department by entrenched officials conducting a guerrilla campaign against the Rwanda initiative.

AS I wrote back in April, civil servants from the top down now feel they can with impunity say 'No, Minister' and simply refuse to implement any policy they don't like.

They know they can rely on support from Leftie politicians, the taxpayer-funded yuman rites brigade and the anti-Tory broadcast media.

While we roll out the red carpet in Dover, the one-way traffic will continue unimpeded. I can't help wondering how the authorities would react if these migrants were arriving not by sea but by air.

What would happen if instead of packing their 'customers' into inflatable boats, the people-smugglers started filling planes with hundreds of passengers and landing them illegally at Heathrow and Gatwick?

Once they'd touched down on British soil, would Border Force simply stand back and wave them through immigration and customs, no questions asked?

And imagine this was happening several times a day, every single day. Most likely they'd be buzzed by the RAF when they attempted to enter UK airspace. In the event of them being allowed to touch down, they'd be rounded up at gunpoint by the Army.

Or not, as the case may be, if the treatment of migrants washing up in Dover is any indication. They are immediately fed and watered and whisked off to comfortable hotels to await processing.

There is a precedent, of course. More than 20 years ago, when a group of Afghan 'asylum seekers' hijacked an airliner and landed at Stansted, they were put on a coach to the nearest Hilton. Although nine were charged and found guilty of hijacking, their convictions were overturned on appeal and they escaped deportation on the grounds it would be a breach of their yuman rights.

Just as I predicted then, they're still here.

Despite the abortive efforts of a succession of ministers, Britain remains a soft touch.

The 28,000 who have arrived at Dover are only those we know about. Plenty more have landed further along the coast. Locals in Kent regularly report gangs of young foreign men wandering through the countryside heading for who-knows-where.

Most of them disappear into the black economy. Others claim asylum if caught. No wonder schools, hospitals and housing are bursting at the seams.

Kent bears the brunt of this influx. Dispersal schemes have stalled in the face of trenchant local opposition in the North of England.

Maybe it's time to take a leaf out of Texas governor Greg Abbott's book. Since Joe Biden laid out the welcome mat after becoming U.S. President in 2021, there have been almost five million unauthorised crossings from Mexico.

Border states such as Texas and Arizona have felt the full force of this invasion, which has been cheered on by Democrat politicians in New York, Chicago and Washington DC, at little or no cost to themselves or their voters.

Republican Abbott has now decided to turn the tables on them. He has been chartering fleets of buses to transport thousands of migrants north to the self-styled 'sanctuary cities'. Arizona has followed suit.

Far from greeting the new arrivals with open arms, civic leaders in these cities have screamed blue murder. New York's mayor has called it 'horrific'. Chicago's mayor accuses Abbott of 'racism'. Washington's mayor, spooked by a few busloads, has declared an official state of emergency.

When it comes to welcoming illegals, the so-called 'liberals' come over all NIMBY — not in my back yard.

They are happy to flaunt their 'compassion' when it's someone else's problem, but not when it lands on their own doorstep.

Same goes for the 'refugees welcome' crowd in Britain. They're quick to signal their virtue, but reluctant to do anything themselves to help.

Remember Pixie Balls-Cooper reneging on her promise to take Syrian refugees into her own home? Or Wee Burney backtracking on a similar promise? She's chartered a couple of cruise ships to accommodate those fleeing Putin's war, rather than overburden municipal housing stock or, heaven forfend, actually billet a Ukrainian family in her official residence.

Manchester's mayor Andy Burnham is a fierce critic of the Government, but when a few migrants started turning up on his doorstep he complained that the burden should be spread evenly across the country.

The SNP's porky pub bore Ian Blackford, leader of the party at Westminster, calls the Rwanda plan 'evil' and demands an 'open door' immigration policy. Labour's Keir Starmer, a card-carrying yuman rites lawyer, says those camped out at Calais should be allowed to come to Britain legally.

Here's an idea. When these migrants land in Dover, they could be put on buses and transported to areas where the 'refugees welcome' brigade live and work.

Lincoln's Inn Fields, home of one of the legal profession's Inns of Court, is in Starmer's Holborn and St Pancras constituency. It boasts London's biggest inner city square.

I can remember back in the 1980s when it was a magnet for the homeless. M'learned friends were most put out. After the makeshift camp was forcibly cleared, the gates to the square were locked every night to prevent the homeless getting back in.

With so many lawyers now apparently in favour of illegal immigration, maybe it's time to establish a permanent migrant settlement at Lincoln's Inn. I'm sure Starmer's mates would be delighted.

A fleet of coaches could carry thousands of recent arrivals to Manchester Piccadilly and Pixie Balls-Cooper's constituency in Yorkshire, and on to Edinburgh, where they could be decanted outside Bute House.

FROM there, others could be taken to Blackford's nationalist stronghold of Ross, Skye and Lochaber. Plenty of room there for an unlimited number of itinerant Albanians to amuse themselves.

A Jolly Boys' Outing to Jolly Jocko Land would be just the ticket.

This week, the hippy-dippy ice cream manufacturer Ben & Jerry's demanded that our new Home Secretary scraps the Rwanda plan.

I note from Google reviews that the London headquarters of Ben & Jerry's parent company Unilever has a 'fabulous canteen'. Perhaps Unilever could open it up to a coachload of migrants rather than sending them to Rwanda.

Somehow, I can't see that happening any time soon. Still, migrants could always be billeted at the Home Office or the Foreign Office, since only half the staff bother turning up for work these days. I'm sure those Leftie civil servants would be only too thrilled to share their workspaces with a few thousand illegal immigrants.

But if it did happen, it would certainly concentrate the minds of those currently moving heaven and earth to stop the Government tackling the crisis.

Our new Home Secretary should start bussing tomorrow. Make it the Left's problem, too.

Come on Sue Ellen. Be brave, man.

The 'refugees welcome' crowd are quick to signal their virtue but reluctant to help out themselves

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Liberated city of a thousand horrors

As Putin forces flee, shocking civilian death toll is laid bare

By **James Franey**
Europe Correspondent

Relief: Izyum resident Yevdokia, 65, hugs her son in front of their shelled house

WAR crimes investigators in Ukraine yesterday began to uncover the horrors left behind in areas recently liberated from Russian troops.

At least 1,000 civilians had been found dead in the recaptured city of Izyum, officials said.

Russian forces captured the transport hub after a four-week battle in April, but fled in the face of a surprise Ukrainian counter-offensive last week.

Anton Gerashchenko, a senior adviser to the Ukrainian government, said at least 1,000 people died in the heavily bombarded settlement from 'shelling, hunger, lack of medicine'.

He added yesterday: 'Izyum is two Buchas in the number of civilian victims,' referring to the Kyiv suburb where an estimated 450 people died during Russia's initial advance.

Mr Gerashchenko said: 'The town where my father was born and buried, lies in ruins.

'Russian shelling ruined two entrances in one building. All 47 people who lived there died – women, children, elderly. These horrible crimes against humanity have no justification or expiration date.'

As investigators started to find makeshift graves, one local official described how Vladimir Putin's forces had tried to cover their tracks.

Maksim Strelnikov, head of Izyum city council, said: 'The occupiers here, as in other places, committed war crimes and tried to hide them.

'According to the information that we have, 1,000 civilians at minimum were killed as a result of military actions.

'Unfortunately, many more people have suffered because they lacked access to timely medical care.' Ukraine's state prosecutor has sent investigators across the more than 3,000 square miles of land Kyiv has recaptured in an operation that began last week.

They have already exhumed bodies of civilians they say bear signs of being tortured or summarily executed. They also claim to have discovered 'torture chambers' used by Russians to interrogate civilians with electric shocks.

A mass burial site containing 440 graves was among the horrifying discoveries in Izyum. Serhii Bolvinov, chief police investigator for the Kharkiv region, told Sky News: 'We know some were killed, some died because of artillery fire, so-called mine explosion traumas. Some died because of airstrikes. Also we have information that a lot of bodies have not been not identified yet.

'So the reasons of death will be established during the investigations.' In the nearby village of Hrakove, locals showed teams the graves of two young men they say they were forced to bury by Russian soldiers. Each had a gunshot wound to the back of the head and their ears cut off.

It comes after Putin tried to flood president Volodymyr Zelensky's home town by hitting a major dam with cruise missiles. Streets in Kryvyi Rih, central Ukraine, turned into rivers after the dam and a pumping station were hit.

Mr Zelensky said: 'You are fighting with civilians. You are weaklings. Scoundrels who fled the battleground to throw things in from afar.'

Oleksandr Vilkul, head of the area's military administration, said last night work to repair the dam was under way and 'flooding was receding'.

City authorities battled to contain damage, while 5,000 people were evacuated and 112 homes were destroyed.

Dmytro Lubinets, the Ukrainian government's top human rights official, said the strikes show Russia 'is a terrorist country'.

Now pro-Kremlin editor dies

THE editor-in-chief of Vladimir Putin's 'favourite' newspaper has been found dead on a business trip in Russia's far east – making him the latest Kremlin stooge to die.

Vladimir Sungorkin, 68, of tabloid Komsomolskaya Pravda and a close friend of the despot, died of 'a stroke' on Wednesday. According to the pro-Putin newspaper, he collapsed 'suddenly' after showing signs of 'suffocation'. Several of Putin's cronies have died in mysterious circumstances. None of the deaths has been treated as murder.

Freedom deal for murderers

By **Europe Correspondent**

MURDERERS and sex attackers in Russia have been offered freedom – if they survive six months fighting in Ukraine.

In a sign of Vladimir Putin's desperate need for recruits, the Wagner group of mercenaries – known as the president's 'private army' – have turned to convicts.

Video footage leaked online showed Yevgeny Prigozhin, who heads the notorious unit, telling prisoners they can become war heroes – but they will be executed if they try to desert. He told inmates in central Russia: 'In six months, you will go home having been pardoned. There is no chance of returning to jail.'

However, he warned: 'The first sin is deserting. No one deserts, no one gives up, no one surrenders. Troops will be issued two hand grenades to blow themselves [and the enemy] up if needed. The second sin is alcohol and drugs in the war zone. The third sin is marauding – this includes sexual contact with local women, men, flora, fauna, anyone.'

Prigozhin, 61, said Wagner would consider applications from inmates aged 22 to 50. He added: 'We take great care about those jailed for sex offences but we understand people make mistakes.' Opposition activists in the country claim at least 10,000 prisoners have so far been recruited to fight in the war.

Critics claim Moscow needs to recruit more fighters to plug gaps in its demoralised army.

At the start of the conflict Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky announced that he would release prisoners with 'real combat experience' to join his troops.

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COWGIRL FRIEL'S THE REAL DEAL

THE road from Brookside to Hollywood, from Liverpool town to Tinseltown, is a long and arduous journey for any actress — but Anna Friel has made it.

There are billboards of her all over Los Angeles this week. For, remarkably, the 46-year-old has lassoed a plum role in Monarch, a new television series from Fox that has just launched in America.

It promises to do for country music what Succession did for newspaper tycoons. Anna stars alongside Susan Sarandon (as her mother) with guest appearances from real country singers Trace Adkins (as her father) and Shania Twain (as herself) in this big-budget, multi-generational drama about 'America's first family of music'.

In Monarch, Anna has a flawless Tennessee accent. She sings, too.

'Red lips, blue jeans, white pearls, I'm an American Cowgirl,' she trills. Wait 'til America finds out she's from Rochdale.

Sparkling success: Anna Friel

Picture: TOM DYMOND/SHUTTERSTOCK/REX

■ *BIN strikes. Rising fuel costs. The economy in meltdown. Yes, things are awful out there. The suffering cuts deep. The sacrifices are cruel. And I just don't know how much more I can take. I'm talking about the shortage of Dijon mustard, of course. There isn't a jar to be had out there, from my local supermarket to eternity. How much more agony can a woman take? I'm not hamming it up. I need my Dijon now.*

Are you thinking what she's thinking?

jan.moir@dailymail.co.uk

■ **IS IT really only a week since the Queen died? It seems like a lifetime ago. So much has happened over the past seven days while the merciless accession of King Charles III grinds onwards, as history dictates it must. There's been so much pomp and ceremony, so much sadness, so much to be proud of. Yet one of the most touching aspects has been the quiet dignity of the ordinary people who queue for hours to say their own farewell to the Queen, as she lies in state at Westminster Hall. Finally, they get their moment. The quiet nod of the head, the small bow, the determination to say goodbye in a private moment of public respect. It is so moving. And it says more about the Queen than a thousand obituaries ever could.**

Free the Edinburgh One? No!

FOLLOWING protests at the Queen's coffin procession through Edinburgh this week, a man was arrested and later charged with breach of the peace.

Some have been wringing their hands and arguing that his persecution is in flagrant disregard of freedom of speech laws. That he should have been allowed to protest, even if it was in bad taste. And that a breach of etiquette is not a breach of law. Well, actually, it is in Scotland. Exactly so.

The scope of the charge is wide and can include anything from shouting, abusive or threatening behaviour and causing alarm, to brandishing weapons or violent conduct. 'Andrew, you are a sick old man,' the protester shouted as the royal mourners passed by. No, it's hardly incendiary. Andrew's probably heard worse. From his own late father, for a start.

But Free the Edinburgh One? I don't think so. Imagine how you'd feel if some nut started bawling and shouting abuse at family attending your mother's funeral? People should be able to mourn in peace, without being subjected to the ravings of a monomaniac.

We are either civilised, or we are not. No one, royal or otherwise, should have to put up with behaviour like that.

Jan MOIR
COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

■ I KNOW what you're wondering. What in the name of Feminax has happened to that guy who was appointed menstrual maestro in Scotland? Chaos reigns, of course. In Dundee, Jason Grant has been sacked from his post as Tayside's PPT (period poverty tsar) following an IB (international backlash). Many were outraged that a man — any man — was deemed to be in a position to educate women and girls on their menstrual cycles. Dundee & Angus College confirmed the controversial role had been axed following T&A (threats and abuse). But it seems Grant did not go willingly. He is considering suing his former employers on the grounds of sexual discrimination, arguing that his sacking would not have happened to a woman.

My head is spinning — but does he have a case? Grant's very acceptance of his PPT appointment seemed to suggest that he didn't think his sex mattered, yet now he has suddenly realised that his sex is desperately important after all. What a nonsense. You can take diversity too far, you really can.

Women who marry into the royals pay a much higher price than men

YOU don't just marry the person you love, you marry into their family, too — whether you like it or not. And in the Royal Family, that bargain is perhaps more pronounced and bittersweet than in most.

This week, we were reminded of the price paid in particular by the wives of Windsor, each of whom has given up so much and taken on even more, just to be with the man they love. Is it worth it?

On Wednesday, Camilla, Kate, Sophie and Meghan formed a line of immaculate, grieving elegance in Westminster Hall, a sad quartet in black stockings and funereal weeds, taking their place in history. After falling in love with their respective princes and dukes, each of them has seen their life change irrevocably, and not always for the better.

Take the Queen Consort. All Camilla ever wanted was Charles. Nothing else. She didn't hanker for prestige, grand houses, titles and a central ceremonial role in the nation's affairs, along with the opportunity to share the rank and status of a monarch. In fact, those were the last things she wanted. She just wanted him, even though he was unhappily married to someone else at the time.

To be together they endured years of public vilification and scorn. Now, just as they reach the sunset years of their relationship, they have been catapulted back into the spotlight — and how.

Picture: TIM ROOKE/SHUTTERSTOCK/REX

United in grief: The Queen Consort, the Princess of Wales, the Countess of Wessex and the Duchess of Sussex

FROM here on, Camilla is the wife of a king, a woman soon to be crowned herself. Good grief, she must think — this jolly good sport who likes wet dogs, country pursuits, her feet up and crafty ciggies — how did I get here?

You could see her fortitude during the Leaky Pen incident at Hillsborough Castle this week, when her newly elevated husband threw a tantrum over a malfunctioning writing instrument.

She simply took the pen from King Charles, handed it to an aide, got another, then sat down and signed the visitors' book herself, without even the tiniest of tiny knowing wifely sighs. Testament to her good nature, it also spoke volumes about their relationship.

Then there is Kate, the art history student and sometime accessories buyer who has somehow shaped herself into a future queen with incredible aplomb and discipline; there are often moments when she is more regal than the royals.

The girl from Bucklebury had to leave the carefree ways of her old life behind when she married William, and if she has regrets she keeps them to herself.

Sophie's transition from PR girl to countess has not been without its glitches. Yet her marriage to Edward is successful, and she became a confidante of the Queen along the way.

Then there is Meghan. For much of her marriage to Harry, the Duchess of Sussex has been either at war with the Windsors or adrift on a river of hurt and a one-way tide of blame. Perhaps now, after taking part in these momentous public occasions, she can grasp just what it takes and what it means to be royal. Also that maybe her in-laws are not so bad after all.

Of course, it is different for the Windsor husbands. Prince Philip was unique, carving a strong and purposeful life for himself from the empty shell of the consort's role. Princess Anne's husband fades into the background because, in the nicest possible way, who cares about him? Meanwhile, I note this week that the husbands of Princess Eugenie and Princess Beatrice now wear medals on official royal occasions — surely they were not pinned on to their chests merely for marrying into the York family?

Whatever happens, the men can carry on selling tequila and developing property without pause, because after marrying into The Firm their lives alter little, and even then, only in beneficial ways.

Whatever happens, the husbands can continue selling tequila without pause

It is different for girls. Their very existence is subsumed into that of their husbands, and they get precious little credit for it.

And if Meghan thinks she has had a rough ride, she should consider the fate of the Duchess of York. It has been 30 years since the toe-sucking incident with her financial adviser. And although some would argue that the Duke of York is guiltier of bigger sins, he is the one who has been forgiven, not her. There is still no place at the Windsor table for Fergie.

Still, following on from the Queen's sad death, I'm hoping for an enfilade of rapprochements all round. We hear so much about the Windsors being a dysfunctional family: weird, distant, riven with emotional fault lines and fish-knife eccentricities behind the ramparts of their castles. Prince Harry has publicly criticised the way he was raised by Prince Charles — and, by association, how Prince Charles was brought up by the Queen. He has talked of the 'genetic pain and suffering' in the Royal Family and stressed that he wants to 'break the cycle' for his children.

Yet despite all that, and regardless of the strangeness of the 'royal zoo' — Harry, again — this week the Windsors looked like an ordinary, loving family caught in the flytrap of grief.

Strip away the trumpets and pomp and what was left were sons and daughters, brothers and sisters simply doing their best to negotiate the terrible storm of bereavement, just like everyone else. Let's hope for a happier and united future ahead, for all their sakes.

Chancellor wants to scrap cap on bankers' bonuses to boost City

By **Harriet Line**
Chief Political Correspondent

CHANCELLOR Kwasi Kwarteng is considering scrapping the cap on bankers' bonuses to make the City more globally competitive, it emerged yesterday.

He wants to remove the cap that limits annual bonuses to twice their salary.

It was introduced in the wake of the 2008 financial crash to prevent bankers taking unnecessary risks. But Mr Kwarteng believes ending the cap would make London a more attractive place for talented bankers and would be a clear signal of his 'Big Bang 2.0' approach to overhauling City regulations. He is said to be anxious to boost London's competitiveness against other major financial hubs such as Hong Kong and New York, which are offering tax incentives to attract top bankers. But he faced a backlash from unions, economists and MPs yesterday, with TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady saying: 'Bonuses in the City are already at a record high. While City executives rake it in, millions are struggling to keep their heads above water.

'Working people are being walloped by soaring prices after the longest and harshest wage squeeze in modern history. The Chancellor's number one priority should be getting wages rising for everyone – not boosting bumper bonuses for those at the top.'

City bosses have criticised the cap, which was introduced by EU legislation, but its supporters say huge bonuses previously encouraged excessive risk-taking that led to the financial crash. Economist Andrew Sentance, who was a member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee at the time, said of the plans: 'It sends a rather confused signal when people are being squeezed in terms of the cost of living and the Government is trying to encourage pay restraint in the public sector.'

'Timing would be bad now'

He told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: 'There may be some longer-term arguments for pursuing this policy, but I think the timing would be very bad if they did it now.'

Labour MP Dame Margaret Hodge said research showed 'mergers and acquisition bankers in 2021 got the highest bonuses they've had since records began – £2.6billion'.

'That's the equivalent of paying the salaries of nearly 80,000 nurses,' she said. 'So thinking about bankers at this stage is obscene. Whose side is everybody on really?' The Bank of England said it never supported a cap on bankers' bonuses and believes there are more effective ways to discourage excessive risk-taking.

Comment – Page 26

Emergency mini Budget next week

KWASI Kwarteng will deliver his emergency mini Budget next Friday – as Liz Truss plans to cut short the parliamentary recess to make up for lost time after the Queen's death.

The Prime Minister will extend next week's parliamentary sitting by a day so the postponed Budget can go ahead on September 23.

The mourning period has left the PM unable to make any major policy changes since she announced the energy bill freeze last Thursday. Parliament is currently due to break up next Thursday and is not due to resume until October 17. But now MPs will be asked to return on October 11. Parliament will take a decision on the new dates next week.

Ephraim Hardcastle

NICOLA Sturgeon reaffirms that Charles will be King of Scotland if her dream of independence is achieved. But isn't she overlooking a greenfly in the ointment? She has a majority at Holyrood only because of a deal with the staunchly republican Scottish Greens. Co-leaders Patrick Harvie and Lorna Slater refused to attend the proclamation of the new King. When Charles visited the parliament on Monday to receive its condolences, Harvie was just as belligerent: 'But in truth the tide of progress cannot be halted.' Harvie has the chance to whisper sedition in Sturgeon's ear. Could the throne end up as a bargaining chip?

DAME Joan Collins, pictured, describing her 'utter devastation' at the death of the Queen, recalls the Queen Mother disclosing at a premiere that the entire Royal Family watched her every week in the soap opera Dynasty. '"And do you hate me, ma'am?" I enquired. "Oh no, we all LOVE you," she replied. I do hope her daughter did too.'

BRIGADIER Andrew Parker Bowles debunks suggestions that the Queen cared more for animals than people. He recalls their conversation after the IRA Hyde Park bomb in 1982: 'I probably banged on rather too much about the seven dead horses and not enough about the four dead soldiers. "Remember you can buy more horses," she said. "But you can't buy young soldiers."'

RECALLING his divorce from Camilla, Andrew tells The Spectator about the Queen's present to them of Danny, an ugly and bad-tempered corgi, saying: 'In 1995, Her Majesty was heard to remark that the worst aspect of the Parker Bowles divorce was that she had got Danny back.'

AWARE that Poet Laureate Ted Hughes was grievously ill when he accepted his Order of Merit at Buckingham Palace in 1998, HM invited his wife Carol to join him. 'The conversation that ensued seemed for the most part a strange monologue from Ted, allowing little space for the Queen to participate or respond,' recalls Carol. 'But she listened intently and courteously throughout. Her sensitivity to his situation was very apparent, and for that I will be forever grateful. Ted died 12 days later.'

NOT to be outdone by his royal in-laws in the medal-wearing stakes at the Queen's funeral procession, Mike Tindall sported three ribboned gongs on his breast pocket – his MBE as well as his Queen's Diamond and Platinum Jubilee awards. Where was his 2003 Rugby World Cup winner's gold medal?

SITTING after dinner with the Queen, Charles Moore recalls her disclosure that husband Philip was reading the second volume of his mammoth Margaret Thatcher biography. '"I gather there's more to come," she said. I said, "Ma'am I'm frightfully sorry, but I'm afraid there will be a third volume." "Oh don't worry," said the Queen. "I shan't read it."'

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Goodnight, I love you, see you in the morning

Heartbreaking words from Olivia's mother at funeral for murdered girl

By **Liz Hull**

THE mother of innocent murder victim Olivia Pratt-Korbel said a poignant farewell to her daughter at a packed funeral yesterday.

Cheryl Korbel, 46, told the congregation: 'I will never say goodbye but what I will say is goodnight, love you, see you in the morning.'

The moving ceremony was held at St Margaret Mary's Church in Knotty Ash, Liverpool, a short distance from where nine-year-old Olivia was shot dead in her own home just over three weeks ago. Hundreds of people, many of them wearing a 'splash of pink' at the family's request, lined the streets as the youngster's coffin was taken to the church by a white, horse-drawn carriage.

Olivia was shot in the chest when a gunman chasing a convicted burglar and drug dealer burst into her home, firing indiscriminately.

Mrs Korbel was hit in the wrist as she desperately tried to shut her front door, but the bullet also struck her daughter standing behind. The youngster was taken to hospital but could not be saved. Neither the gunman nor his target had any links to Olivia's family.

Police have arrested nine people but, so far, no one has been charged with Olivia's murder.

This week Tory peer Lord Ashcroft offered a £50,000 reward via his Crimestoppers charity for information leading to the gunman's conviction.

Mrs Korbel told mourners how Olivia, known as Liv, had been born six weeks early and spent nine days in a special baby unit. 'She was so small yet even as a newborn she had her own mind,' Mrs Korbel said. The mother of three added: 'Olivia was very chatty and bubbly and would talk for England, to the point we thought she had Duracell batteries inside. She would have made a great lawyer as she had an answer for everything.

'Liv touched so many people's hearts and was loved and adored by everyone. She will never be forgotten. I will never say goodbye but what I will say is goodnight, love you, see you in the morning.'

A eulogy from Olivia's father, John Francis Pratt, was read by parish priest Father Roy Cooper. He called her 'our very own little diva' who was kind, caring and helpful. Olivia's sister Chloe also gave a reading during the service.

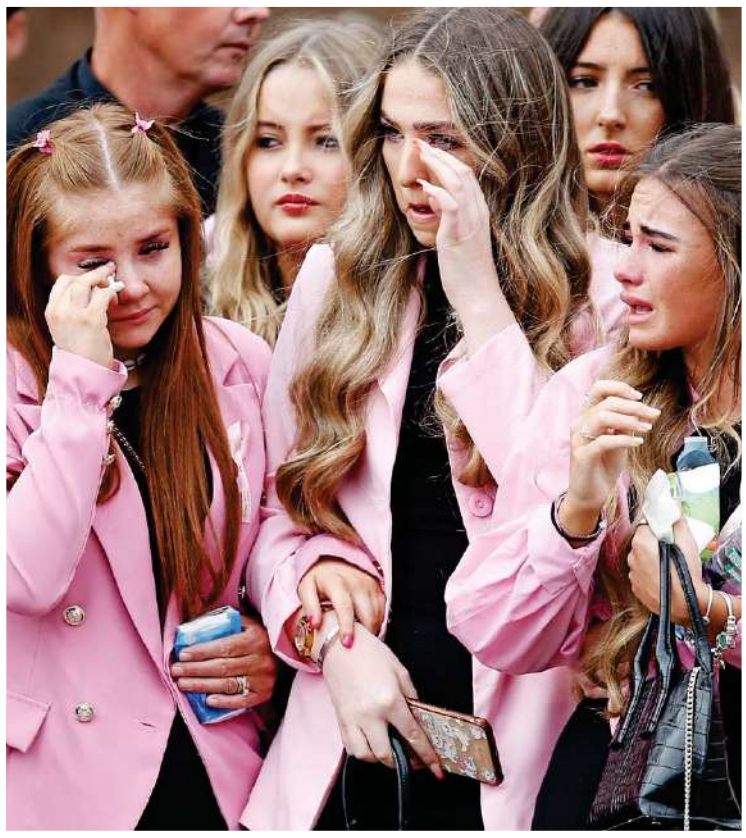
'Touched so many people's hearts'

The white coffin, with butterflies painted on the side, was topped with lilies. Unicorns and flowers in teddy bear shapes were placed alongside it in the carriage.

Pupils at Olivia's school, St Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior next door to the church, had decorated the school railings with pink ribbons, while Olivia's name was spelled out in pink hearts in the windows. Her classmates painted their nails pink in her memory and watched her favourite film, Matilda, instead of lessons yesterday.

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon called Olivia a 'gift to her family and all who knew her'. He said he had faith her death would 'lead to a community here in Liverpool without violence – that it will become a place of peace and justice'.

Amazing Grace was sung and as the cortege left for a private burial, the family hugged and wiped away tears as mourners applauded.



Tearful: Grieving mother Cheryl Korbel holds a toy yesterday. Distressed mourners all wore pink to remember Olivia, inset left

Coffey's ban on jargon, legal waffle, and 'Oxford commas'

By **Kumail Jaffer**
Political Reporter

HEALTH Secretary Therese Coffey pledged to fix social care, ambulance delays, NHS backlogs and GP access when she took office this month.

But advice issued to staff at the Department for Health and Social Care this week suggests that grammar may also be top of her priority list.

Civil servants were told to limit briefings to two pages, 'avoid jargon, legalistic or "policy wonk"' and even refrain from using Oxford commas – a comma placed after the penultimate item in a list, before 'and' or 'or'.

Its name is derived from being traditionally required by the Oxford University Press. But in English, it is generally deemed unnecessary apart from where lists involve pairs, such as 'red and white, and green and blue'.

The document – originally uploaded on the Department for Health and Social Care intranet page and also issued to the UK Health Security Agency – also asks employees to 'avoid double negatives'.

Last night sources at the Department for Health said the advice did not come from the Deputy Prime Minister but from her office.

However, in 2013 Miss Coffey declared on social media that she 'abhors' the Oxford comma.

'The most important message of your life and you go and use the Oxford comma!'

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What is the truth about the fatal shooting of an unarmed man that's sent relations between police and the black community to a new low?

by Paul Bracchi and Rebecca Camber

SHORTLY before 10pm on September 5, residents in Kirkstall Gardens, a street in Streatham Hill, South London, were disturbed by the sound of screeching tyres.

One of the people who peered out of the window to investigate was a young mother who was putting her eight-year-old daughter to bed.

Outside, she saw a car — it turned out to be an Audi Q8 — surrounded by police officers.

'Get out of the car, get out of the car,' she heard them shout to the driver. Moments later there was a loud bang. 'There was one single shot, she said. 'It was terrifying.'

The bullet from the police marksmen entered the windscreen and hit the target: a 24-year-old man who was still sitting behind the wheel. He died later in hospital.

His name was Chris Kaba. He had a fiancee and was about to become a father. He was also black and unarmed.

Many of you might not be aware of this story given the momentous national events of the past week.

But it would be impossible to overstate the anger Chris Kaba's death has caused in the black community at a time when confidence and trust in the Metropolitan Police is at an all-time low.

Hundreds attended a peaceful protest in Central London, led by his parents, in the wake of the shooting.

'Would he have died in such circumstances if he was white?' they asked, the question — or rather the allegation — which is at the centre of this tragic episode.

The firearms officer who pulled the trigger has been suspended and is under investigation for murder or manslaughter by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), the police watchdog.

However, his removal from all duties triggered a backlash within the ranks of the Metropolitan Police this week.

Colleagues are now threatening to hand in their weapons in protest at the decision and are preparing to step back from armed duties once the Queen's funeral is over.

The decision to suspend him, they say, was taken to 'placate public anger, pure and simple' and had also resulted in 'ill-informed commentary from those in positions of power', the staff association representing every constable, sergeant, inspector and chief inspector wrote on Twitter.

He has been made a scapegoat, in other words.

MP Harriet Harman was among the signatories to a letter calling it 'incomprehensible' that the officer had not been disciplined, while the director of the charity Inquest, which supports bereaved families, declared: 'There is rightly anger and frustration at yet another black man whose life has been cut short after the use of lethal force by police.'

'Anger at another black man whose life was cut short'

The killing of Chris Kaba could not have come at a worse time for the new Met Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley, who has been left with a legacy of controversies — including the exposure of a canteen culture in some stations where misogynistic, sexist and racist behaviour was prevalent — that ended with the ousting of his predecessor, Dame Cressida Dick.

The challenge he faces was summed up by a placard left at the scene of the shooting, at the junction of Kirkstall Gardens and New Park Road, which reads: 'Jail the killer cops.'

It went on to describe what happened as 'plain murder by an officer who felt assured he would get away with the murder of a black man — because police officers have nearly always got away with that…'

On the fateful night in question, viewed from the doorstep or a window overlooking the spot where Chris Kaba died, a policeman opening fire on a young black man sitting in his car might have looked like a scene from downtown Los Angeles or Detroit.

But drowned out in the chorus of anti-police comments — perhaps inevitably so — was information that provided a fuller context to the fatal shooting.

'Officers told him to get out of the car 12 times'

First, the high-speed pursuit which preceded the bloodshed started after the Audi Chris Kaba was driving was flagged on automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras because the car had been linked to a previous firearms incident a few days earlier. The vehicle, it turned out, was not registered in his name.

Was the Audi stolen? Did he borrow it from the owner who was wanted by the police?

We were unable to get an answer from the law firm which represents the Kaba family.

Second, the chase ended when the Audi was stopped using what is known as 'tactical contact' which, in layman's terms, means it was rammed or shunted.

After the Audi had come to a halt, at least two police cars managed to box the vehicle in.

This is what a witness told the London Evening Standard happened next. 'Armed police jumped out and were shouting at the man, "Get out of the car," the witness said.

'It was at least a dozen times. The guy in the car had a lot of opportunities to stop but he refused. He then started driving forwards towards a police car and smashed into it then reversed, he just wouldn't stop the vehicle.'

Third, little or no account has been taken of the unimaginable stress firearms officers are under in such situations.

To open fire, they need a reasonable and honest belief that their own life — or the lives of others — is in peril.

Decisions are usually split-second and almost always life-or-death. A sudden movement, a twitch of the hand, say, however innocent, can be misinterpreted in the white-heat intensity of the moment.

In this case, the car being pursued had been linked to a previous firearms incident so there must have been a reasonable expectation that the driver was armed.

He wasn't, of course, but he was known to the police, something we shall come to shortly.

Taken out of context, the fact a suspect turns out not to have been armed can easily be used to paint a damning picture of police brutality.

The loss of a young life in such violent circumstances is devastating for those who knew and loved Chris Kaba. However, a theme running through some of the coverage, and previous cases, is that there is an equivalence between policing in Britain and policing in the U.S.

No individual police officer has ever been found guilty of murder or manslaughter following a fatal police shooting in England and Wales.

The Met has 3,200 officers who are involved in countless operations but only rarely is a firearm ever discharged.

'Being a firearms officer in London is one of the world's toughest jobs,' the Metropolitan Police Federation statement reminded everyone after the death of Chris Kaba.

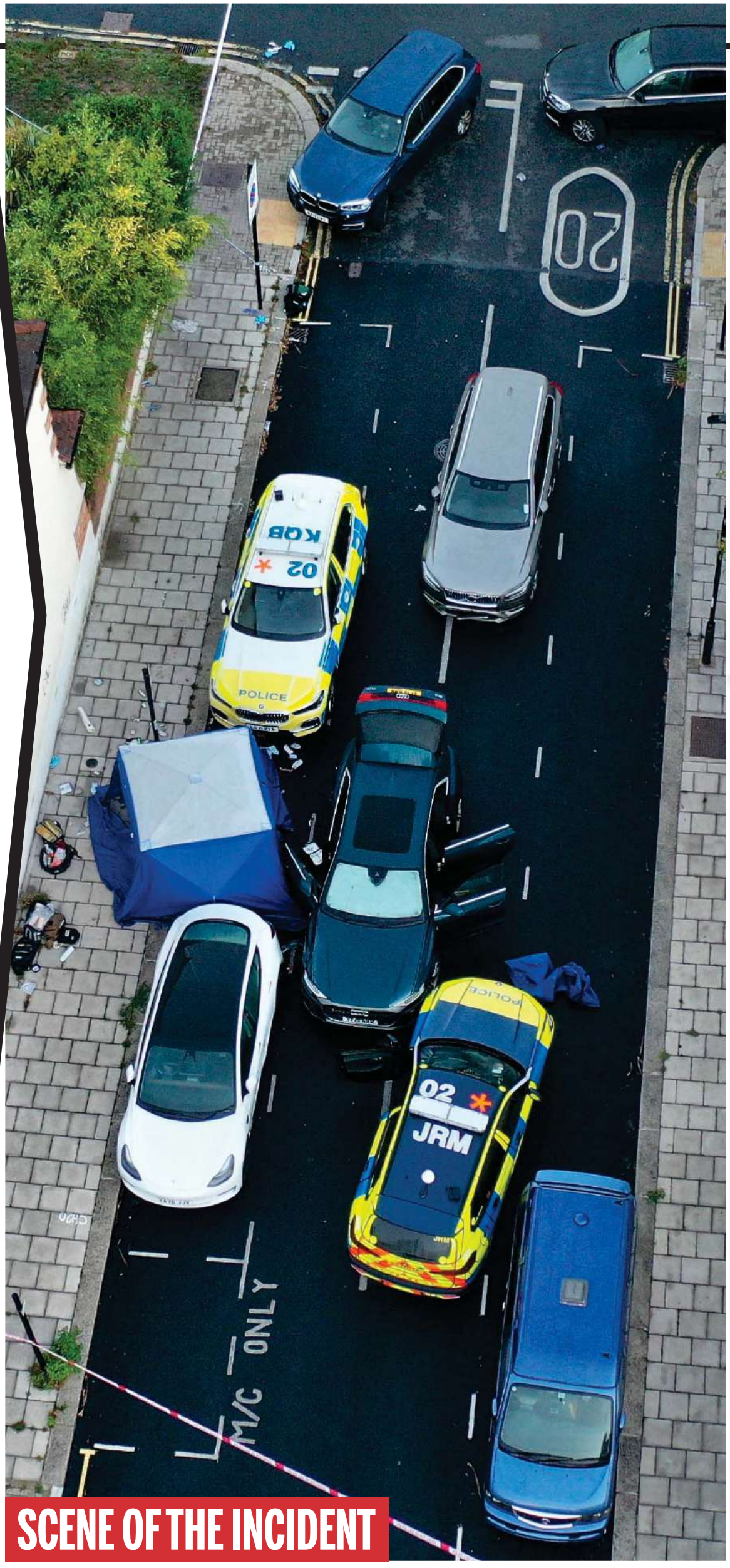
'Officers — volunteers — know the responsibility/accountability that comes with it and deserve our support.'

In 2015, 28-year-old Jermaine Baker was shot dead in Tottenham, North London. He was also sitting in an Audi. He was also black and unarmed.

The officer who killed him was the subject of a homicide investigation, too.

Jermaine Baker, it later transpired, was part of a criminal gang that was trying to ambush a prison van to spring a suspect from custody and an inquiry concluded that the officer who opened fire had acted lawfully.

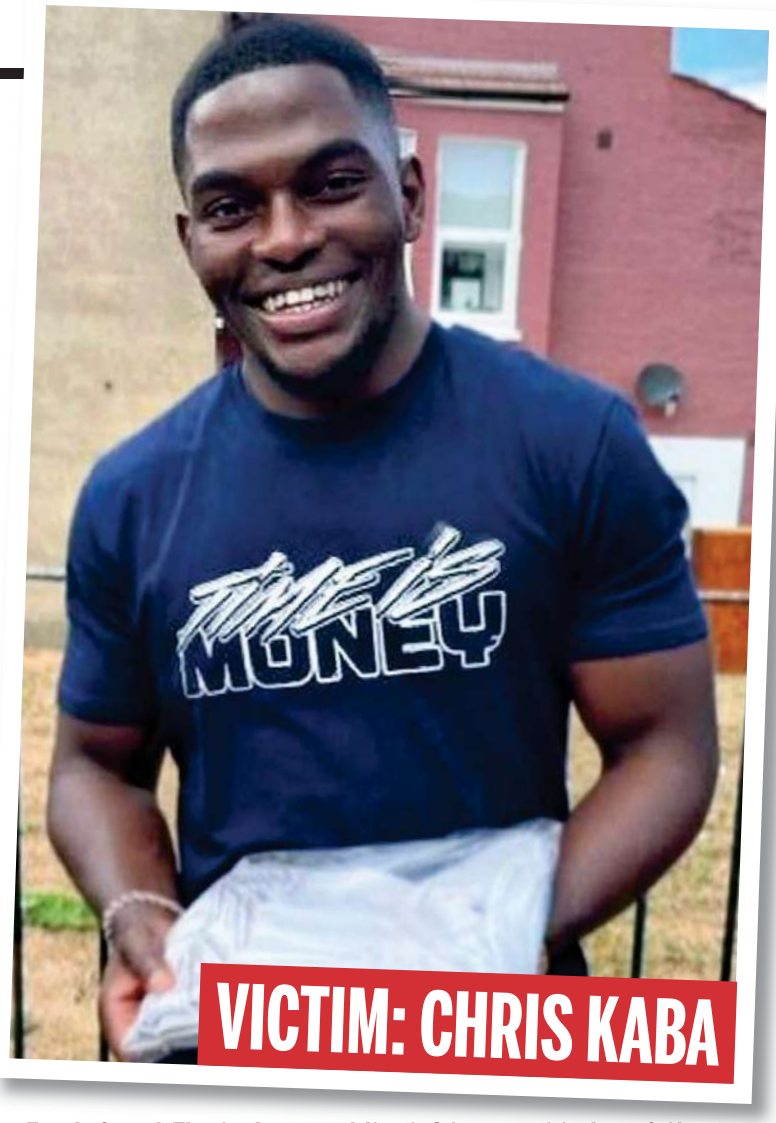
Parallels have similarly been drawn, by some who have attacked the police over the death of Chris Kaba, with the death of Mark Duggan in 2011, which sparked



SCENE OF THE INCIDENT

Aftermath: The Audi A8 driven by Chris Kaba is boxed in by police cars in the South London street

Pictures: UKNIP/UNIVERSAL NEWS AND SPORT



VICTIM: CHRIS KABA

Fresh-faced: The trainee architect, 24, was set to be a father

the biggest riots in recent British history.

What is not mentioned, though, is that Duggan was a gangster and an exhaustive three-and-a-half year investigation by the police watchdog completely exonerated of any wrongdoing the officer who shot him following a car chase.

Chris Kaba, on the other hand, the eldest of three brothers, was from a church-going family who originally came from the Congo and had begun an apprenticeship to become an architect.

He went to the same Croydon school as Manchester United star Aaron Wan-Bissaka. The two were friends. The footballer, also of Congolese descent, changed his Instagram profile picture to #JUSTICEFORCHRIS after he was killed. His family have spoken about a wonderful young man who was excited about pending fatherhood. 'He was a good boy not involved in trouble,' said his father, Prosper Kaba, a financial adviser.

'He was a good boy,' says his father

His son, though, had been released from custody more than a year ago after being sentenced to four years in a young offenders' institution for possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence in January 2019.

The conviction followed an incident in Canning Town on December 30, 2017, when there were reports of gun shots fired, but no one was injured.

Chis Kaba was also a member of a 'drill' rap collective known as 67, who were nominated as best newcomer in the 2016 Music of Black Origin awards (MOBOs).

'Drill' music is a genre which has been blamed for fuelling bloody turf wars between rival gangs.

Members of 67, formed in Brixton Hill, South London, in 2012, have criminal records for firearms and knife possession offences. Ten of the group were jailed in 2018 and 2019 for a county lines drug-dealing operation.

The police have called 67 a 'criminal gang' and have shut down several sell-out shows for fear of violence.

Chris Kaba, who was known as Mad Itch according to posts on social media, was among a second wave of members, rapping on tracks and appearing in music videos shot on South London estates from 2016.

There is nothing to suggest that he was involved in 67's criminal activities.

Family members stressed that he was no longer part of 67 and was devoted to his fiancee and looking forward to becoming a father.

The police watchdog has insisted that evidence, not public pressure, resulted in the investigation into the death of Chris Kaba being upgraded to a homicide inquiry.

His family, it is believed, will be allowed to watch police video of the incident that led to the killing. Officers were wearing body cameras, and a helicopter fitted with a camera was following the car Chris Kaba was in.

Back in Kirkstall Gardens, where he died, there was sympathy for the police.

'In my opinion you have to obey the police when they give you an order to stop,' said one woman. 'Why did he not stop?'

Stop-and-search powers have, over the years, eroded the black community's trust in the police.

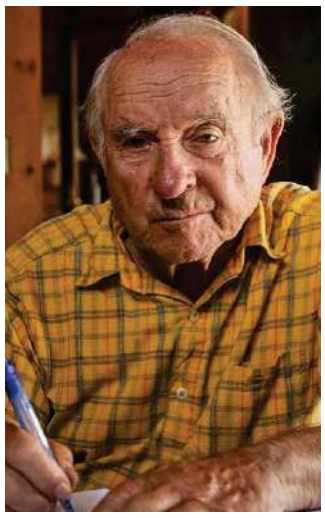
There were 79,933 searches of white suspects and 74,079 of black suspects in the past year (September 2021 to August 2022), according to the Metropolitan Police website.

As London's white population is four times higher (4,881,636 compared to 1,272,276), it means black people are four times more likely to be stopped.

Nevertheless, if Chris Kaba had stopped when the blue lights behind him started flashing, he might still be alive today.

This has been all but forgotten in the aftermath of the shooting.

■ *Additional reporting: TIM STEWART and TIM CORKETT*



Activism: Yvon Chouinard, 83

Billionaire founder of trendy fleece firm gives company away to fight climate change

By **Colin Fernandez**
Environment Editor

THE billionaire founder of outdoor clothing brand Patagonia has given his firm to a charitable trust to help fight climate change.

Yvon Chouinard, 83, said that, instead of selling the company or taking it public, he would transfer his family's ownership to a non-profit organisation where the profits can be used to 'save' nature and the planet.

In an open letter posted on the company's website on Wednesday night, Mr Chouinard said any profit not re-invested in running the business would go into fighting the climate crisis.

'Earth is our only shareholder,' Mr Chouinard wrote in the letter posted online.

'I never wanted to be a businessman. I started as a craftsman, making climbing gear for my friends and myself, then got into apparel.

'As we began to witness the extent of global warming and ecological destruction, and our own contribution to it, Patagonia committed to using our company to change the way business was done.'

The Patagonia founder told the New York Times: 'Hopefully this will influence a new form of capitalism that doesn't end up with a few rich people and a bunch of poor people.

'We are going to give away the maximum amount of money to people who are actively working on saving this planet.'

The firms' clothing has a cult following among eco-conscious famous faces – including Princes William and Harry.

Patagonia will continue to operate as a private, for-profit corporation but the Chouinard family, which controlled the business until last month, will no longer own it. Ninety-eight per cent of the company's stock will go to the Holdfast Collective, a non-profit organisation which 'will use every dollar received to fight the environmental crisis, protect nature and biodiversity, and support thriving communities'.

'Protect nature and biodiversity'

Two per cent of stock and decision-making authority goes to the Patagonia Purpose Trust.

In his early days as a businessman, Mr Chouinard lived out of his car and ate damaged tins of cat food, before launching climbing equipment company Chouinard Equipment in 1965. It became highly successful and he began using the brand name Patagonia from 1972.

The company's headquarters are in Ventura, California, and it sells more than $1billion (£871million) worth of outdoor wear and equipment worldwide annually. He now has a net worth of $1.2billion (£1.05million) and the firm he founded is worth $3billion (£2.6billion).

Mr Chouinard and Patagonia have a history of pioneering environmental activism in business.

But they have also attracted controversy, particularly for marketing campaigns that have taken a staunch anti-Trump stance.

Fashionable: The Patagonia brand

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				O	
	O				
		X		X	
				X	X

Solution on Mail Puzzles back page

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Laura is moved by King anthem debut

LAURA WRIGHT was the first to sing the National Anthem at a sporting event after the Queen's death, before the England v South Africa Test match at the Oval on Saturday.

'I could feel the crowd hold their breath before I started singing,' the mezzo-soprano tells me. 'I only needed to sing four or five words differently, but the significance of those changes shook everyone.'

Wright, 32, who also performed for Her Majesty, adds: 'Before the match began, I repeated [the words] over and over in my mind. I had to focus purely on the music so that the emotion of the moment didn't affect my performance.'

■ *IS ROCKER Jimmy Page too distracted by his planning battle with neighbour Robbie Williams to read his messages? I ask only because Ozzy Osbourne says a request for the Led Zeppelin legend to play on the bat biter's album didn't even get a reply. 'I thought getting Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck and Jimmy Page meant having the greatest guitarists on the planet, but I never heard from him,' he says. 'Maybe he'd lost his phone.' But Clapton and Beck were happy to jam on the album, Patient Number 9.*

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Eden

Duke's book promises candid tale of Eton pal hijacking a tourist bus

FORGET Prince Harry's memoirs. It's a rather different book that's sending a frisson of pleasure — and, it must be said, a tremor of unease (perhaps even, for some, a flicker of pure terror) — through the coroneted classes.

I can reveal that it is the handiwork of the twice-married Henry John FitzRoy Somerset, 12th Duke of Beaufort — sometimes known as Harry but, to intimates, always 'Bunter'. The Duke, now 70, acquired this soubriquet in a carefree youth.

'He's written his memoirs,' one of Bunter's sporting chums tells me, adding that one chapter in particular seems destined to cause excitement. 'It's entitled "The Hooray Years".'

I'm told that the Duke, who has long straddled the old and new worlds with style — he is both Master of the Beaufort Hunt and a singer with progressive rock band, The Listening Device — offers a characteristically candid insight into a legendary society episode.

It concerns the night when Tim Hanbury — a friend of Bunter since their schooldays at Eton — emerged from Annabel's club in Mayfair, spotted a parked bus crammed with Japanese tourists and commandeered it.

The Duke, whose second wife is Georgia Powell, granddaughter of novelist Anthony Powell, declines to offer a sneak preview of his account.

This is scant consolation for Hanbury, whose daughters, Marina and Rose, are married to the Earl of Durham and the Marquess of Cholmondeley respectively. 'I'm sorry,' Hanbury tells me. 'I'd much prefer that it doesn't reappear.'

Hooray: Bunter and Georgia

Greek playboy and sportsman Taki Theodoracopulos once claimed that the driver of the bus stopped to answer a call of nature. Realising this, Hanbury leapt in and drove off, 'sideswiping' most of the sleek, expensive cars parked nearby in the process, alleged Taki.

With the Japanese tourists 'screaming for help', Hanbury allegedly abandoned the bus and returned to Annabel's, where the police were seen off by the unhesitating testimony of Sydney the barman.

Hanbury insists that this version is 'vastly exaggerated'. Bunter's will surely be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

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Kate's girl models her must-have accessory

KATE MOSS'S daughter Lila Grace is determined to be a role model. The 19-year-old makes a point of not hiding the insulin pump she wears to help control her diabetes symptoms.

Here, the model is seen at New York Fashion Week, with her hotpants revealing the medical device on her thigh.

Her pump has been on show during a number of catwalk appearances, such as when she walked for Versace at Milan Fashion Week last year, earn-ing praise for her courage. She previously revealed that she keeps an Apple AirTag, usually used to locate items such as keys, on her insulin pump reader so she doesn't misplace it. This lets her track her blood sugar levels.

'I have some sugar tablets in case my blood sugar goes low,' she explained. 'A pod on my leg gives me insulin. This [reader] is very important to keep in my bag. It comes with me everywhere.'

■ *IN A TRAUMATIC week, Prince William has gone back to work. I hear he held a meeting with the Duchy of Cornwall's finance committee via video link from Kensington Palace. As the new Prince of Wales, he is also the 25th Duke of Cornwall and has inherited a £1billion estate. It makes him one of the biggest landowners in Britain, as the Duchy estate is made up of some 128,000 acres. More impressive than Prince Harry's Montecito mansion — even if that does have 16 bathrooms.*

■ *FELIX FRANCIS — son of the late Dick Francis, the Queen Mother's favourite equine thriller writer — took over the family business and continued to deliver the first copy of his novels to Buckingham Palace.*
'I haven't done it this year,' he says at the launch party for his latest offering, Hands Down, at the Cavalry & Guards Club in Piccadilly, London. 'I felt it would be inappropriate. I will do it in the fullness of time.'
Felix admits that he tries to protect the sensibilities of his royal readership. 'You do hold back on the sex and swearing when the Queen is the first to read your novel,' he once told me.

Waste not, want not for eco chic Jo

JO WOOD, ex-wife of Rolling Stones guitarist Ronnie, looks like she popped out wearing a see-through raincoat over her bra and knickers.

In fact, the Strictly star, 67, was modelling an eco outfit ahead of London Fashion Week.

It was made by Vin + Omi, a sustainable brand which even makes clothes using garden waste, such as plant pots and nettles — some of which come from our new King's Highgrove estate in Gloucestershire.

'I love Vin + Omi,' she tells me. 'My dress was made from recycled paper and plastic.'

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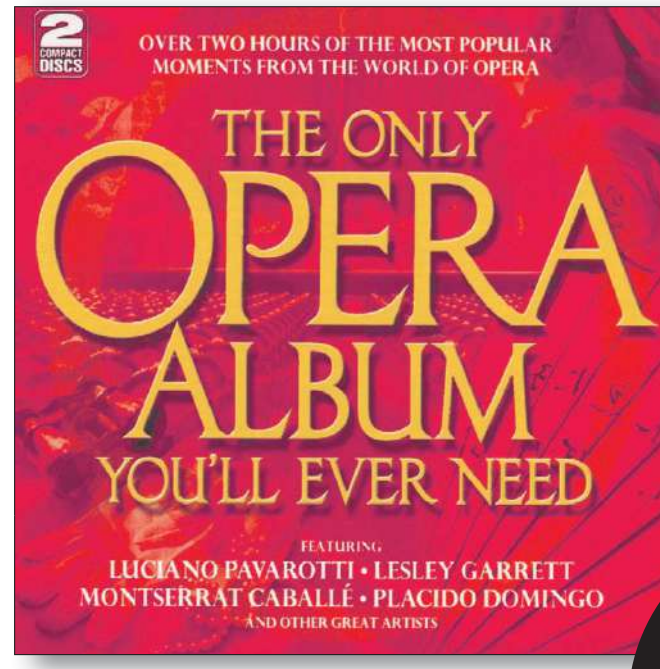

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6. *The Marriage of Figaro: Voi che sapete*
7. *Pagliacci, Act I: Recitar! Mentre preso; Vesti la giubba*
8. *Norma: Casta diva*
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10. *Rigoletto, Act IV: La donna è mobile*
11. *Orfeo ed Euridice: Che farò senza Euridice?*
12. *The Pearl Fishers, Act I: Au fond du temple saint*
13. *Der Ring, Die Walküre: Die Walküren*
14. *The Marriage of Figaro: Non più andrai*
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Alison Bo

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Priscilla nets $1m to shoot film about marriage to Elvis

SHE was moved to tears by Baz Luhrmann's version of her late husband's life story, but now Priscilla Presley is putting herself in the spotlight, after striking a deal for a movie to be made telling the story from her perspective.

The film, Priscilla, will be based on her best-selling 1985 memoir Elvis And Me.

Directed by Sofia Coppola, it will tell how she first met Elvis when she was 14,

and initially conducted a 'penpal' romance with him while she was living in Germany and he was in America. When she was 17, she moved in with his parents. The couple were married — in Vegas — in 1967 when she was 22 (*pictured*), and divorced in 1973. Now, 50 years on, the tale is coming to the big screen. Sources describe the script, written by Coppola, as 'intimate' and say it offers a view which was not in the Elvis movie. 'It's a love story,' I'm told. 'It starts when they fall in love and ends when their love story ends.'

Priscilla said the marriage failed because the King, ten years her senior, wasn't faithful. She eventually fell in love with a karate instructor, and left him. Priscilla's role will be taken by newcomer Cailee Spaeny, who played single mum Erin in the acclaimed TV drama Mare Of Easttown. Euphoria star Jacob Elordi, an Australian, will play Elvis.

Filming on the picture will start imminently in Toronto. Director Coppola is also producing the project, in tandem with Lorenzo Miele of The Apartment (a Fremantle company) and A24. Charles Finch, the British publisher and producer, is also co-producing, through his Sony-based film company Standalone.

Presley, 77, is believed to have struck a $1 million deal for the rights to her book.

FURTHER revenue will pour into the Presley estate from licensing Elvis's songs. It's thought that the recent Warner Bros film, which starred Austin Butler and Tom Hanks, garnered as much as $20 million in music rights alone. (Colonel Parker, Elvis's crafty manager, used to insist that he and his star got half the publishing rights — and subsequent royalties — on anything Presley recorded.)

Priscilla and Elvis's daughter Lisa Marie is the music legend's sole surviving heir.

Meanwhile, Elvis will be back on screen soon... as a cartoon. Netflix's animated offering Agent King sees Presley trade in his jumpsuit for a jetpack. The series, created by Sony Pictures Animation, shows Elvis joining a secret government spy programme, while still

carrying on with his day job. Character designer Rob Valley told an animation festival in Annecy, France, in June: 'I wanted him to look adorable and dangerous.'

Priscilla Presley is an executive producer of the show. She said: 'I worry about the scripts, because it's an adult animation. So you're leaving it to Sony and Netflix. Sometimes the script comes in and I go: "God, Elvis would never say that!"'

BILLIE KEEN TO CARRIE ON ACTING

CARRIE Fisher's daughter Billie Lourd appears in Ticket To Paradise: the George Clooney/Julia Roberts romcom which has delayed its release until next week following the death of the Queen.

Lourd plays Wren, who's best friends with Lily (Kaitlyn Dever), the daughter of Clooney and Roberts' bickering divorced couple. The actress, whose father is American talent agent Bryan Lourd, describes herself as 'the ultimate third-wheel queen'. 'I grew up with the funniest woman of all time — my mom! — and so not being funny would just mean that I was not accepted in my family. So I needed to be funny to survive.'

Lourd, who is expecting her second child, was previously in the film Booksmart; and has just been announced as the lead in a forthcoming comedy called & Mrs, alongside Aisling Bea.

Ticket To Paradise opens in cinemas on Tuesday.

MICHAEL PALIN says he isn't averse to having more adventures in dangerous places. The former Monty Python star has followed up a visit to North Korea with a trip around Iraq, for Channel 5 next week. 'We did consider going to Syria to make a series, before it was regarded as being too dangerous,' Palin recalled. But added he would not rule it out in future. 'People said: "Don't go to Iraq!" But why? The war's over there. We can't just reject a country because it was once a warzone.'

shoff

Irresistible gossip and A-list scoops from our star showbiz columnist

MARILYN LOOKALIKE FIRES THE STARTING GUN FOR THE OSCARS

AND they're off! With film festivals back at full power — Venice and Toronto have just finished, London's wingding gets underway next month — the starting gun has been fired for the awards season.

Cate Blanchett is being tipped already to scoop another Best Actress Oscar for her starring role in Tar (she plays an orchestra conductor). And there is probably enough love for Ana de Armas in the film Blonde for her to want to stand by her phone when Oscar nominations are announced on January 24.

Some critics found the film problematic — but nobody quibbled with de Armas's performance as legendary screen goddess Marilyn Monroe.

For the boys, Colin Farrell won at Venice for The Banshees Of Inisherin — which our critic Brian Viner said he wanted to award six stars out of five. And Brendan Fraser won in Toronto for his turn as a 600lb English professor in The Whale. It would be a big upset if the Academy ignored either of them.

Last year, Venice Volpi Cup winner Penelope Cruz went on to score an Oscar nomination.

Blonde ambition: Ana de Armas as Marilyn

Pictures: JOE MAHER/GETTY IMAGES/NETFLIX/ROBINO SALVATORE/GC IMAGES/BETTMANN/CORBIS

Winslet's titanic dive for Avatar

Taking the plunge: Kate, left

YOU would forgive Kate Winslet for refusing to ever get into a water tank again for director James Cameron. The star spent months shooting scenes for him in Titanic — and ended up with hypothermia for her pains.

However not a bit of it. The Oscar-winning actress positively thrived when shooting underwater scenes for Cameron's Avatar sequel The Way Of Water.

She plays Ronal, one of a race of underwater beings closely related to the Na'vi.

Producer Jon Landau was in London yesterday to screen some footage and (very gently) start to beat the drums to promote his new sci-fi blockbuster. He told me: 'Kate broke a free-diving record among the cast. It was six minutes 50-something — but for Kate we agreed to call it seven. She was phenomenal.' Winslet was apparently particularly delighted to beat Tom Cruise, who famously performs his own stunts and managed a six-minute free dive while making Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation in 2015.

Young actress Bailey Bass plays Tsireya, Ronal's daughter, in The Way Of Water. She said: 'Kate holds the record — she set it during training. I managed six minutes and 30 seconds.' All the cast went through dive training to prepare for the picture, which opens here on December 16.

Ford younger than ever at 80

Indy's back: Ford and Waller Bridge on set

HARRISON FORD first cracked that famous bullwhip as Indiana Jones back in 1981, and he promises that the forthcoming — fifth — instalment will be his last.

We don't yet know what the film will be titled, but some are suggesting it should be called Indiana Jones And The Fountain Of Eternal Youth, because the actor, who is 80, has been digitally de-aged for at least some of the action.

The technology has advanced enormously — look at Robert DeNiro in The Irishman — but for Indiana Jones, Disney appear to have used motion capture technology which allows Ford to be portrayed on screen as a man in his 20s or 30s.

The star was snapped on set with dots on his face — and a stunt double was seen riding a horse through a tickertape parade in 'New York' (actually Glasgow). In the footage shown at D23 Expo in Florida last Saturday, the man on the horse was 'young Indy', and he was protecting his beatnik goddaughter Helena (Phoebe Waller-Bridge). The trailer has not yet been released online. Ford appeared a tad emotional when he said: 'I'm very proud to say that this one is fantastic. Indiana Jones movies are about fantasy and mystery, but they're also about heart. We have a really great story to tell, as well as a movie that will kick your ass.'

BEN Kingsley makes a convincing Salvador Dali (pictured) in the film Daliland, which premieres tomorrow night at the Toronto International Film Festival. The film shows the artist as an old man, striving for relevance as he prepares to mount an exhibition. He's supported by his muse and 'spiritual wife' Amanda Lear, who was by his side for 15 years — while he was terrorised by his actual wife Gala. Lear — a model, TV host and later pop singer — is played by model and trans woman Andreja Pejic, who says she has been a lifelong fan of the androgynous Lear.

Records appear to show Lear was born Alain Tap in Saigon; but she has previously denied being born male. Her eventful life story will surely be told in film one day — her lovers have included David Bowie and Bryan Ferry.

The original Britpop boys swagger back to their roots

by **Adrian Thrills**

SUEDE: Autofiction (BMG)
Verdict: Britpop trailblazers rediscover the plot ★★★★☆

RINA SAWAYAMA: Hold The Girl (Dirty Hit)
Verdict: Pop with personality ★★★★☆

MARCUS MUMFORD: Self-Titled (Island)
Verdict: Haunting solo debut ★★★★☆

Pictures: MIKE GRAY/AVALON/PA/ERIC RAY DAVIDSON

Revitalised: Suede and, inset from top, Rina Sawayama and Marcus Mumford

WHEN Suede re-formed after a seven-year break in 2010, they reintroduced themselves with the predictable lap of honour.

They played a few 'classic album' shows in London and completed a greatest hits tour to remind the world that it was them — and not Blur or Oasis — who really started 1990s Britpop.

Since then, they have steadfastly refused to play the nostalgia card. They have made three adventurous new albums, Bloodsports, Night Thoughts and The Blue Hour, the last of which featured choirs, orchestral flourishes and bucolic instrumentals, prompting singer Brett Anderson to admit that it was 'wilfully obscure'.

Those comments sold The Blue Hour short. It was a record that worked well as a complete piece of music. But it pays to give fans something familiar from time to time — and Suede do just that on Autofiction, a new album of aggressive rock'n'roll that recaptures the raw energy of their formative years. 'It's our punk record,' jokes Anderson. 'No whistles and bells, just the five of us in a room.'

There's no shortage of energy. With Richard Oakes' guitar driving the band on, That Boy On The Stage is an electrified stomp. What Am I Without You? is a windswept ballad that, like Suede's early singles, looks to David Bowie, Roxy Music and 1970s glam for inspiration.

THROWBACKS to the band's heyday abound. But Suede are no longer callow 20-somethings. They are men in their 40s and 50s, with the bruises to prove it, and Anderson doesn't shy away from grown-up realities. He overcame a drug problem in the 1990s, is now a husband and father, and has written two autobiographies. So he has a fair bit to sing about. He addresses fond memories of his mother, who died before Suede got their big break, on She Still Leads Me On. 'When I look up at the sky, she leads me on,' he sings.

Shadow Self is a song about turning 50. Drive Myself Home, illuminated by piano and woodwind, is a mature ballad. There's exuberance amid the vulnerability, too. That Boy On The Stage is a boisterous celebration of live performance and 15 Again a bittersweet look back at 'afternoons in bedrooms with TV meals'. Now and then, the swagger tips over into melodrama — but Suede are otherwise regenerated. Bassist Mat Osman says they made this album to remind themselves of the joys of being in a band. As second comings go, it rolls back the years.

■ RINA SAWAYAMA showed her determination when she campaigned for a change to the eligibility rules for UK music awards, such as the Brits and Mercury Prize, in 2021.

The singer — born in Japan, but a British resident for 27 years — kept her Japanese passport to maintain family ties, but found herself excluded from UK music competitions as a result.

With support from Elton John, however, her lobbying led to an amendment (long-term UK residents are now eligible for all the glittering prizes), and she was rewarded with a nomination for last year's Rising Star award.

She's showing the same drive on her second album, Hold The Girl, a tightly-crafted collection of catchy pop. Sawayama, 32, doesn't hide her influences. On ballads like the title track, she's indebted to musical theatre. This Hell, a plea for tolerance, is a Lady Gaga-style banger with a nod ('Let's go girls!') to Shania Twain's Man! I Feel Like A Woman!

But she imposes her own personality on some infectious pop tunes, singing about being raised by a single mother on Catch Me In The Air, and recalling her student days at Cambridge on Holy.

Rock ballad Phantom is a pep-talk to her younger self: ('If I could talk to you, I'd tell you not to rush'). A fondness for meteorological metaphors does start to wear thin: we have rainstorms and blue clouds on Forgiveness, 'blue skies, always there behind the rain' on To Be Alive, and 'April showers finally making way for warmer weather' on Hurricanes. But even so, Hold The Girl is a breath of fresh air.

■ THERE are harrowing moments on Self-Titled, Marcus Mumford's first solo album. The Mumford & Sons singer was sexually abused aged six, and he began untangling decades of denial to deal with the trauma last year. He's now singing about his grim experiences on an album that, while often an uncomfortable listen, shows courage.

Putting the banjos and mandolins of his regular band aside, he swaps folk for surging rock and acoustic blues. His lyrics are fierce and direct. 'I can still taste you and I hate it,' he sings on Cannibal. He tells of how difficult it was to tell his mother about the abuse on Grace.

Elsewhere, on Better Angels, he acknowledges the support of friends and, on final track How, wonders if forgiving his abuser would help.

He isn't the first artist to sing about the healing process, but his powerful, personal songs ring truer than most.

■ *SUEDE start a UK tour on March 3, 2023, at The Forum, Bath. Tickets go on sale at 9am today (gigsandtours.com). Rina Sawayama starts her tour at SWG3, Glasgow, on October 12 (ticketmaster.co.uk).*

TRACK OF THE WEEK

9 TO 5 by DOLLY PARTON & KELLY CLARKSON

COUNTRY queen Dolly teams up with pop icon Kelly for a new version of her feminist anthem. With Clarkson handling the first verse and Parton the second, they transform the upbeat 1980s original into a modern ballad.

When it comes to gaming, these guys wrote the book(s)

Shadow Of The Giants and Secrets Of Salamonis (£7.99 each)
Verdict: Down memory lane, with a sword ★★★★☆

FIGHTING Fantasy is 40. For those who spent their childhoods battling the terrible wizard Zagor, this is cause for great celebration — and a shuddering reminder of your age.

For those who endured sadder childhoods, the basics. Fighting Fantasy is a series of gamebooks that has sold millions. The game is all in the choices: turn to section 372 to drink the mysterious liquid, or to 157 to throw it at the she-elf… that sort of thing.

To mark the anniversary, the series' creators, Ian Livingstone and Steve Jackson, have written a pair of new books: Shadow Of The Giants and Secrets Of Salamonis.

Even though publisher Scholastic disinterred Fighting Fantasy in 2017, this feels like a proper return. Here are two tomes by the grand warlocks of gamebooks, full of references to the titles of yore, with illustrations that recall the classic artwork from the 1980s. Livingstone's Shadow Of The Giants is an enjoyably straightforward romp that careers into the mud and humour of its medieval world. Jackson's Secrets Of Salamonis is more complicated, in both its gameplay and swirly-whirly narrative.

I'm itching to play through them again, with my toddler son — although perhaps I'll wait until he's old enough to swing a sword.

PETER HOSKIN

by BRIAN VINER

Moonage Daydream (15, 135 mins)
Verdict: A starman and an oddity ★★★★☆

Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song (12A, 118 mins)
Verdict: Full of treasures ★★★★☆

Spectacular journey through BOWIE'S magical mind

Pictures: JOHN LYNN KIRK/REDFERNS

DAVID BOWIE was a rock star like no other, and Moonage Daydream is a fittingly singular documentary, ostensibly about his remarkable life but really more like a journey, one lasting well over two hours, through his relentlessly mercurial mind.

The last film I saw about Bowie was the hopelessly misconceived 2020 biopic Stardust, with a disastrously miscast Johnny Flynn as the man himself, an exercise doubly hamstrung by the refusal of the Bowie estate to allow the use of his music.

Moonage Daydream, by striking contrast, gives writer-director Brett Morgen the opposite problem. The notoriously protective guardians of Bowie's legacy have allowed him access into every nook and cranny, including all the concert footage and all the interview archive, so his headache was almost certainly what to leave out.

It also means that Bowie effectively narrates the film himself. He was a willing interviewee, cheerfully introspective and requiring little prodding to philosophise about music, art, religion, indeed pretty much anything. He has nothing to say about rugby league, but that might be about it.

In truth, not everything he says in Moonage Daydream (borrowing the title of his 1971 song) is immune to the charge of pretentiousness. But there are plenty of cherishable insights. I especially loved his definition of what every day should yield for a human being... that at the end of it we should be satisfied that we 'took from it, and gave back to it, as much as possible'. He fulfilled that equation more than most of us in his 69 years.

The film focuses mainly on the 1970s and early 1980s, from Bowie's Ziggy Stardust years to his global 1983 Serious Moonlight tour. There are a few stark omissions; we hear him rhapsodising about his 1992 marriage to the Somali supermodel Iman, but his first marriage to Angie Barnett, and his experience of fatherhood, are overlooked.

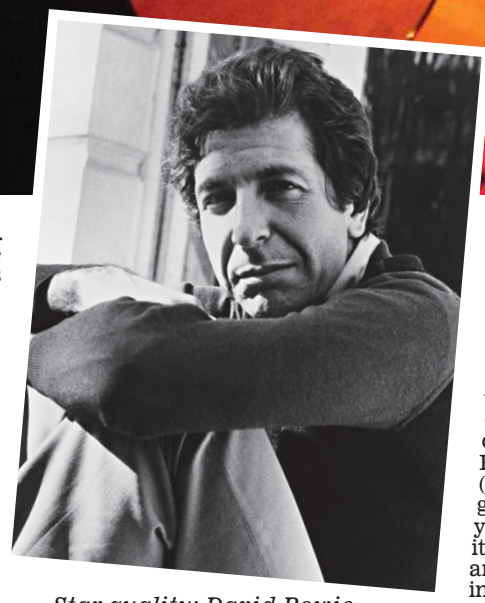
Nor has Morgen selected that memorable clip of Bowie wisely and with amazing prescience explaining to a sceptical Jeremy Paxman, at the dawn of the internet age, just how the World Wide Web would change the way we live. It pops up often on social media, aptly, and is always a treat.

Maybe the director (whose credits include documentaries about the Rolling Stones, Kurt Cobain and, a trifle incongruously, the primatologist Jane Goodall) regarded it as too familiar. After all, one of the primary joys of the archive material in this film is how little we've seen before.

Another joy, for anyone who gets a kick out of studying the interviewer's art, is watching Russell Harty, Michael Parkinson, Dick Cavett, Valerie Singleton and Mavis Nicholson trying hard — and in some cases failing hard — to get a grip on this unique, androgynous, driven, formidably gifted being. Harty went in at floor level. 'Are those men's shoes, or women's shoes, or bisexual shoes?' he asks, a trifle desperately. 'They're shoe shoes, silly,' replies Bowie.

Mind you, that implies a down-to-earthness that hardly reflects the film. Morgen has filled it with hundreds of wildly disparate images, from crazy, swirling psychedelia to Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers dancing up a storm, from surreal animated sequences to the streets of Cold War Berlin. At first it seems unnecessarily distracting and weird, but gradually you realise that it illustrates, rather brilliantly, just how Bowie ticked.

■ THE life story of another creative genius is documented by focusing on his most famous composition in **Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song**. Cohen died, as coincidentally Bowie did, in 2016. And actually there are other parallels; both men wrote at least as well as they sang, and both had incredibly fertile, restless minds. This excellent film by Daniel Geller and Dayna Goldfine is much more conventional than Moonage Daydream but, for Cohen fans, it is similarly full of treasures.



Star quality: David Bowie on stage in 1972 and (inset) Leonard Cohen

I greatly enjoyed the analysis of Hallelujah's lyrics as: 'one part biblical, one part the woman he slept with last night'.

The film cleverly sheds light on Cohen's complex personality by tracing the trajectory of the song, from its outright rejection by the combative head of Columbia Records, Walter Yetnikoff ('Leonard, we know you're great, we just don't know if you're any good,' he said), to its use on the 2001 movie Shrek and its extraordinary triumph in the UK charts in December 2008. Alexandra Burke's version reached No.1 that Christmas, with Jeff Buckley's version at No.2, and Cohen's 1984 original at No.36.

Since then, it has become a standard at weddings and funerals, and poignantly rang out at a memorial service in Washington DC last year for more than 400,000 American victims of the pandemic.

So much for Yetnikoff's judgment. But then, that's showbiz.

CLASSIC FILM ON TV

Paddington (2014)

EIGHT years isn't very long to secure classic status, but Paul King's film is such a delight — and the doughty Peruvian bear won our hearts anew with his antics alongside our late, beloved Queen earlier this year.

Saturday, BBC1, 7pm

Watch out! Jackie Brown is back in town...

QUENTIN TARANTINO fans will be delighted to see that there's a 25th anniversary re-release of his 1997 crime thriller *Jackie Brown* (15, 154 mins, ★★★★☆), being screened from today in more than 200 cinemas nationwide.

And if you're really hot on your Tarantino detail, you might also have noted the coincidence of Jean-Luc Godard dying this week. The great French director was a major influence on Tarantino, who named his production company, A Band Apart, after Godard's 1964 classic Bande à Part.

What Godard in turn thought of Jackie Brown is, as far as I know, undocumented. Either way, it stands alone in Tarantino's credits as the only one of his films that did not originate in his own head; it is based on the Elmore Leonard novel Rum Punch. Crafted as a homage to the so-called 'blaxploitation' movies of the 1970s, it stars Pam Grier, a veteran of those films, in the title role (pictured).

ALSO SHOWING...

She plays an air stewardess who works for ruthless Los Angeles gun-runner Ordell Robbie (Samuel L Jackson), using her job to smuggle large sums of cash for him, but in the end swindling him.

The last time I watched Jackie Brown on TV, I confess I needed sub-titles. Jackson's dialogue in particular is delivered at such speed that it's not always easy for a British audience to follow.

That service won't be available in cinemas, but I'm looking forward to it all the same. It's a long, occasionally ponderous, but compellingly stylish and witty film, with a marvellous soundtrack and a top-notch supporting cast led by Robert De Niro, with Michael Keaton, Bridget Fonda, Robert Forster and, in a blink-and-you'll-miss-it cameo, Danny DeVito.

Another of this week's releases, In From *The Side* (15, 134 mins, ★★☆☆☆), could hardly be more different. A low-budget debut for writer-director Matt Carter, it's about a love affair between two players at a gay London rugby club, both of whom are in committed relationships with other men.

It's an intriguing backdrop to a tale of infidelity, but it would be better suited to a four-parter on TV. The film lasts well over two hours and needs a much earlier final whistle.

by **Patrick Marmion**

The Two Popes (Rose Theatre, Kingston, and touring)
Verdict: Alpha Papas ★★★★☆

The Snail House (Hampstead Theatre, London)
Verdict: More pain, please! ★★★☆☆

Pictures: MANUEL HARLAN/MARK DOUET

Divine intervention: Lesser, right, as Pope Benedict with Woodeson as Pope Francis

Two popes and one question: how do we move from era to era?

AT A time of succession in the Royal Family, this fine revival of Anthony McCarten's play about Popes Benedict and Francis is poignantly apposite.

Its central question of how we move from one era to another, and how an incumbent relates to their office, weighs heavily on our minds today.

The play, which was turned into a film starring Anthony Hopkins and Jonathan Pryce, is a speculation on what happened behind the scenes in 2013, when Benedict shook the world's 1.2 billion Catholics by becoming the first pontiff to step down in 700 years.

The retiring Pope is played here by Anton Lesser — with Nicholas Woodeson as Francis — and both find huge warmth in the men's troubled souls.

The big debate is whether the Catholic Church should renew or transform its 2,000-year-old traditions. But both McCarten and the actors focus on the two men as human beings who find themselves overwhelmed by mighty responsibility.

Lesser at first revels in Benedict's delight in secretly watching Kommissar Rex, the Austrian whodunnit about a crime-solving canine. He recalls, innocently, how in his youth a girl once allowed him to pick salt off her pretzel.

Woodeson's Argentine Cardinal Bergoglio (who went on to become Pope Francis) loves to tango and watch football; and once told a girl he'd become a priest if she didn't marry him (the sigh that follows is worth the ticket price alone). Yet Bergoglio reminds Benedict that a priest is a 'flawed vessel' and asks who are they to make changes to a church that is itself in need of such great forgiveness.

THE former Joseph Ratzinger (later Benedict) is racked with guilt at failing to thwart a paedophile priest in Germany. Bergoglio is ashamed not to have done more to support victims of Argentina's fascist Junta in the 1970s. And yet, despite their imperfections and misgivings, one of them must shoulder the burden of the papacy.

Both are spurred on by supportive and provocative nuns (Lynsey Beauchamp and Leaphia Darko); and James Dacre's production is tender yet intense. There are sometimes corny blasts of 'Gloria! Gloria!' echoing amid wafts of incense and churchy lighting, but this is a thoughtful and moving delight that glows anew.

Catholics are well known for their belief in the dignity of suffering and, as a Catholic myself, I'd like to have been made to suffer a bit more by Richard Eyre's debut play, **The Snail House**.

Clearly influenced by the great Norwegian dramatist Henrik Ibsen, it's the story of a consultant paediatrician and knight of the realm who finds the past catching up with him as he celebrates his 55th birthday with friends and family.

Played by Vincent Franklin, our doctor is an overbearing northerner, firm in his faith in science. During the course of the evening, he is confronted by the catering manager — against whom (it transpires) he gave evidence in court some years before.

The doctor's wife (Eva Pope) endures grievances familiar to spouses of alpha males, while his gay son (Patrick Walshe McBride) is a scathing political adviser, and their daughter (Grace Hogg-Robinson) a teenage eco-warrior.

One of the great directors of modern times, Eyre (a late-onset writer at 79) unfolds the action skilfully. But I craved more of everything: sweat, tears, intrigue and, in particular, pain.

Not to mention cunning. How, for instance, did the catering manager (Amanda Bright) come to take charge of the posh party in an oak-panelled school room? Was it just a coincidence?

Our top-dog medical man also could have done with more of a moral dilemma: one that might have revealed greater depths in his character. Instead, the charges laid against him aren't really his fault, and are resolved without any great cost.

■ *FOR more reviews see MailOnline.*

Funny pair, quirky play... should be a perfect fit

The Clothes They Stood Up In (Nottingham Playhouse)
Verdict: Second-hand Bennett ★★★☆☆

THIS should have been a marriage made in theatre heaven: two of our most beloved, quintessentially quirky and comic actors, Adrian Scarborough and Sophie Thompson, in the staging of an Alan Bennett novella about a bizarre kind of burglary, which strips a couple first of their worldly possessions (including used loo brush) and, second, of the 'marital deceptions' that kept this pair ticking along.

It's a parable of sorts about losing 'stuff' — and finding out that possessions matter less than living, loving relationships, which neither knew much about before the robbers cleaned out the contents of their London flat.

There's a brief explanation of the robbery, but it is certainly not the point of this little literary gem.

Alas, it is now the focus in Scarborough's adaptation, dragged unconvincingly into post-Brexit Britain. A portrait of a marriage becomes an overstretched, overstated whodunnit, losing Bennett's deliciously amused, ironic tone in the process.

Lost souls: Scarborough and Thompson

Still, even second-hand Bennett has its pleasures. For meek, repressed Rosemary, stooped and drooping before her time, the robbery proves liberating and revelatory, feelings somewhat hammered home by Thompson, suddenly all cheerful, jaw-dropping, eyes-popping wonder.

Venturing into her local shop to restock the essentials (having always stuck to the safety of Marks & Spencer), she is charmed by nice Mr Anwar, the widowed shopkeeper (an echo of Bed Among The Lentils, one of Bennett's brilliant Talking Heads).

Into the uncluttered flat sweeps Dusty, counsellor for victims of crime and, slouched comfortably on Rosemary's new beanbags, the women discuss grief and the need to 'nurse your womb'. Stirred by daytime telly's Lorraine Kelly, Rosemary considers 'honing her marital skills'. 'I've grown,' she beams.

By contrast, Scarborough struggles to enliven Mozart-mad Maurice, a deadly dull, quietly oppressive solicitor with a dirty secret, who cannot be shaken from his rigid routine.

Slightly effortful entertainment.

GEORGINA BROWN

Inspector still has the power to arrest us

An Inspector Calls (New Wimbledon Theatre)
Verdict: Still relevant at 30 ★★★★☆

STEPHEN DALDRY'S radical reimagining of J.B. Priestley's thriller (written in 1945 and set before World War I) was a smash hit at the National Theatre in 1992, winning 19 major awards, including three Oliviers and four Tonys on Broadway. Now it has been given a welcome 30th anniversary revival tour under associate director Charlotte Peters.

The play (on Ian MacNeil's striking set) begins with loud music and lots of smoke, with the Birling family's doll's house of a home stranded amid a ravaged urban landscape, underlining the work's fable-like quality, a morality tale for our times.

The mysterious Inspector Goole (Liam Brennan, nicely sardonic) calls unexpectedly on the prosperous Birlings as they gather to celebrate daughter Sheila's engagement to local businessman Gerald (Simon Cotton).

Mysterious: Liam Brennan

Goole is investigating the death of a young woman whom, it transpires, they all knew in some capacity — none of them positive.

Sheila, given emotional heft by Evlyne Oyedokun, is the play's moral centre, a vapid social butterfly who develops a conscience before our eyes as the hypocrisy of her fiance and parents (Jeffrey Harmer and Christine Kavanagh) is laid bare.

I had the added, er, enjoyment of seeing this production at a schools performance. There is no better barometer of clunky exposition and overacting than a large group of teenagers and I'm happy to report that their titters numbered only a few.

Daldry's production remains a relevant social document — and the play still works as a rousing call for personal responsibility.

■ *UNTIL September 17, then touring (aninspectorcalls.com)*

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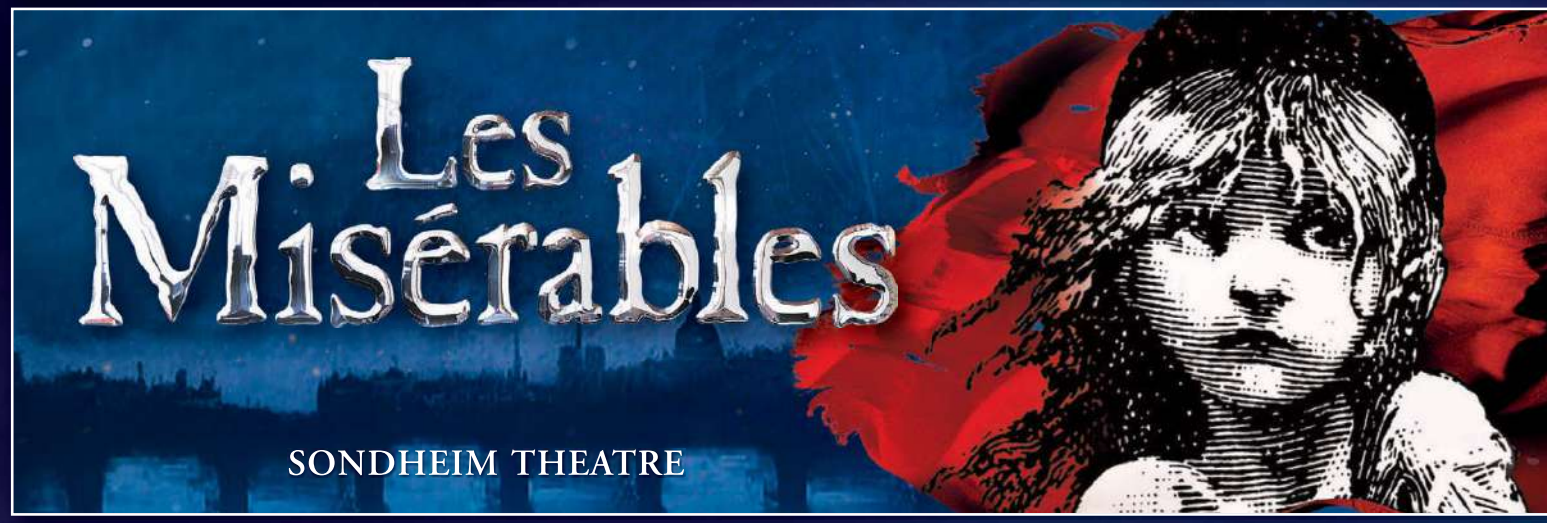

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WHAT BOOK...?

HUGH FEARNLEY-WHITTINGSTALL

Chef and food writer

...are you reading now?

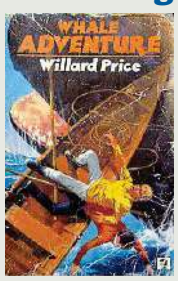
I'M READING Land Healer by Jake Fiennes, one of the key figures helping to steer us to a more nature-friendly way of growing our food. It's an inspiring mix of personal history, punchy food politics and, above all, hard-won knowledge about the ways farming can be tweaked and improved to help nature thrive in the countryside.

It recognises that this is more important than ever, as our physical and mental health depends so profoundly both on good whole ingredients and being able to access a biodiverse countryside buzzing with nature.

...would you take to a desert island?

I WOULD take Remembrance Of Things Past by Marcel Proust, of which I read the first 'part', Swann's Way, a few years ago, with some trepidation, given its reputation for being 'difficult', yet in fact it's a delight, a deeply absorbing and very witty soap opera, which also richly explores the breadths and depths of the human condition: longing and belonging, the search for self, but also self-deception, arrogance and snobbery, foibles which are indeed enfolded in some very long sentences (often whole paragraphs, with multiple subordinate clauses) but they are so elegantly and clearly constructed that you soon get the hang of them, so I'm looking forward to going back to the beginning and then reading right through the 4,000 or so pages. (Did you see what I did there?)

...first gave you the reading bug?



WITHOUT a doubt it was the Willard Price Adventure books, such as Lion Adventure, Gorilla adventure, Whale Adventure etc...they all feature brothers Hal and Roger, whose father is an animal collector (we might be pushing our luck to call him a conservationist). Roger is always getting into near-deadly scrapes until Hal comes to the rescue.

There are some great baddies and fiendish perils, like scorpions in diving helmets and chopped leopard whiskers in food (apparently guaranteed to make you choke to death in seconds). The other thing I remember is that in the Green Knight editions I read (aged about 9-11), every single story was exactly 169 pages long. How did Mr Price do that?

...left you cold?

NOW I wouldn't suggest for a moment that you shun this one, as literally everyone else I know who has read it has loved it. But I really struggled with Lincoln In The Bardo by George Saunders. I can't put my finger on why, although I was given a special edition that had a richly embossed cover, and I think that somehow put me off.

I didn't get past 50 pages. I think I need to get a hand-me-down paperback version from a friend and give it another whirl...

■ *GOOD COMFORT by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall is out now (Bloomsbury, £27).*

BOOK OF THE WEEK

THE DAUGHTER OF AUSCHWITZ
by Tova Friedman and Malcolm Brabant (Quercus £20, 352pp)

HELEN BROWN

Tola Grossman was just five when she was sent to Auschwitz – and escaped certain death by hiding under a corpse in the sick bay

So hungry she licked paint off the walls

ON JANUARY 25, 1945, panicky shots rang out across the Nazi extermination camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Six-year-old Tola Grossman — a Polish Jew — could already identify types of gun by their sounds.

She noted chaotic bursts of machine-gun fire, pistol pops and rifle cracks as she cowered in her barracks with around 50 other children.

Tola heard her German captors shouting and their dogs growling as — unbeknownst to the children — they prepared to flee the approaching Russian army.

In a memoir that bears witness to the full horror of the Holocaust, the 84-year-old widow (now called Tova Friedman, having changed her first name to Tova when she moved to America and her surname when she married) recalls the moment the barracks door burst open.

'We all jumped,' she says. 'In walked a woman I didn't recognise. She looked terrible. Her features were distorted by malnutrition. Her face was little more than a skull covered in parchment-thin skin. Her eyes had retreated into their sockets. But her body was puffy. Starvation did that to a person. It made their flesh swell. Tufts of dark brown hair sprouted from beneath a piece of cloth fashioned into a scarf in a futile attempt to seal in some warmth.'

'Tola, it's me. Mama,' said the woman, crouching down to take her child's face in her hands. 'I was incredulous,' remembers her daughter. 'I hadn't seen Mama's face for so long that I had forgotten what she looked like.'

Tola felt a wave of relief sweep through her. But she was not safe yet.

HER mother pulled her out of the barracks and told her the Nazis were rounding up their prisoners for a long march into Germany, hundreds of miles away. She pointed down at her red raw ankles and her feet, wrapped in sodden rags.

'I can't walk,' she explained. 'I'm going to be shot. Maybe you will make it. You might survive the march. But this is not a world for children. I don't want you to survive alone. So let's try to hide. There's a chance we can survive together. And if we die, we'll die here together. Will you come with me?' Tola's mother led her to the camp infirmary, where scores of beds were occupied by the dead and dying.

She went from bed to bed, until she found the warm corpse of a young woman who had just died. Then she told her daughter to climb into the bed and hide beneath the blanket. 'I was extraordinarily calm,' she says. She cleaved to the cadaver as the Germans searched the room, tipping patients to the floor. She didn't move until the sound of their jackboots had faded and her mother — who had hidden somewhere else — came back for her.

Two days later the Russian soldiers arrived and 'hugged the frail stick people in rags'. They handed out rations from their own packs and filled the camp with laughter. One tall Russian lifted the emaciated Tola into the air with a huge grin on his face. Friedman says that from then on she would always regard January 27 as an alternative birthday, because this was the date on which she began to live freely for the first time.

Born in September 1938, all of Tola's early childhood was spent in the terrifying shadow of the Nazi regime. Her family were among 15,000 Jews cramped into six

Guests coming? Time

ON THE TIP OF MY TONGUE
by Tom Read Wilson (Aurum £12.99, 176pp)

MARCUS BERKMANN

CHRISTMAS books — for this could well be the first of them — seem to start ever earlier each year, but you'll do well to improve on this sparkling and idiosyncratic meditation on words and their meanings, from an actor-turned-writer and a definite frontrunner for the title of Campest Man in the World.

On The Tip Of My Tongue is subtitled The Perfect Word For Every Life Moment, and its chapters include 'How to speak like a thespian', 'How to decline politely, or impolitely' and the slightly worrying 'How to describe each chapter of a love affair'. But its main purpose is to keep you ridiculously entertained with wonderful facts and stories for the afternoon on which you will settle down to read it.

'*Treppenwitz*' (in German) and '*L'esprit de l'escalier*' (French) both mean 'staircase wit' and refer to the phenomenon whereby you only think of the witty rejoinder you should have made when you are on the stairs and on your way home. Been there once or twice...

'February face', says Read Wilson, is 'the king of insults'. 'Why, what's the matter/ That you have such a February face/So full of frost, of storm and cloudiness?' wrote William Shakespeare in Much Ado About Nothing. 'Thine face is not worth sunburning,' he wrote in Henry V. A master of repartee was Mr S.

'Tussie-mussie' was a Victorian term for nosegay, a posy full of perfume. Says Read Wilson: 'Its inclusion in this chapter is entirely selfish and to do with my enormous delight in saying "tussie-mussie".' 'Komorebi' is another good one, an untranslatable Japanese term for the joy of sunlight as seen through the calming filter of a large green leaf. Or 'eleutherophobia', which is fear of freedom, something a lot of us experienced towards the end of lockdown.

'Remorse' you know the meaning of, but you might not know that its root is the Latin word *mordere*, meaning to bite. So remorse literally means 'biting back'.

'We often talk of the conscience pricking us, but biting feels more befitting.'

'Scurryfunge' seems to have disappeared from the language, which is a shame, as it's a magnificent word for a rapid tidy.

'Callipygian' is a cracker, which means 'possessing beautiful buttocks', while 'bathykolpian' means 'ample bosomed', although to be etymologically precise it refers to the deep groove between the bosoms rather than the bosoms themselves.

Moving further down the body, we encounter 'yonic', which means

Picture: REUTERS

Survivors: Children, including Tola (circled), reveal the identification numbers tattooed on their arms

four-storey buildings in the ghetto of Tomaszow Mazowiecki. A psychopathic Austrian policeman prowled the streets at night, to hunt and 'cull' Jewish children. Friedman learned that after the war he was hanged as a war criminal: 'What a pity he only died once,' she says. 'He deserved to be killed a thousand times over.'

Until Tola was four, she slept and ate under a kitchen table as the Nazis rapidly reduced the community's access to food. She was so hungry she licked the paint from the walls. The electricity supply was cut along with the sewage system. Disease was rife.

When she was three, her maternal grandmother was shot in the street.

'The Nazis had no use for old people,' she reminds us. 'I never saw a person with white hair until I came to America.'

In an attempt to protect his family, her father — a tailor — enlisted as a policeman, carrying out Nazi orders which he attempted to mitigate.

This role gave him access to the information that would help save her life. But he left records that remind Tova that 'every day presented him with new insoluble dilemmas'.

He was ordered to place his own parents on the truck that took them to the extermination camp at Treblinka.

'I saw the look in their eyes,' he said. 'They knew where they were going. There was nothing I could do.'

The Grossmans were kept alive to clean up after the Nazi killings and dig graves for friends and neighbours. Regular Nazi 'selektions' saw the rest of the family (including Tola's four and five-year-old cousins) loaded on to trucks also headed for Treblinka.

Once the Tomaszow Mazowiecki community had been obliterated, the Grossmans were sent to Starachowice, where Tola's parents worked at an ammunition factory while the children roamed the streets careful not to get shot by the armed soldiers in the towns surrounding the camp.

WHEN she was five-and-a-half, Tola — an only child — and her mother were packed off to Auschwitz and her father to Dachau.

Friedman's account of her time at Auschwitz makes almost unbearable reading. But she asks that we do read it, because people are forgetting the depths to which superficially 'civilised' humans sank.

A 2020 survey revealed that two-thirds of young Americans have no idea how many Jews died in the Holocaust and almost half couldn't name a single concentration camp. Twenty-three per cent believed the holocaust to be a myth or exaggerated. A similar survey in Europe in 2018 suggested a third of Europeans knew just as little.

Her father survived Dachau and the family moved to America in 1950. But her mother never recovered from her emotional and physical trauma and died — probably of a bleed on the brain as a result of being hit on the skull by a Nazi rifle — when Tola was 18; her father moved to Israel and remarried.

Tola went on to earn a degree in psychology and worked as a therapist. She married Maier Friedman and they had four children; her husband died two years ago.

While helping survivors of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, she began talking about her own history. During her first talk at a school near her home in New Jersey, Friedman described how her mother had protected her in Auschwitz.

'Suddenly I started crying. Me. The girl who couldn't and wouldn't cry in Auschwitz.'

Today she continues to speak across the U.S.

She says audiences often come to her seeking answers to life's fundamental questions. 'They've asked if I believe in God, if I could trust people or whether I could forgive.' She tries to answer as honestly as she can.

'I do believe in God but not necessarily the biblical one. Trust is essential and I never lost my faith in humanity, despite my experiences. As for forgiveness — in Judaism only the living can forgive. I have no authority to forgive on behalf of those who have been slaughtered.'

for a scurryfunge!

Picture: GETTY

Ample bosom: The famously bathykolpian Dolly Parton

pertaining to the vulva, as 'phallic' means pertaining to the penis. What a useful and neglected word. Read Wilson talks of 'the yonic whorl of a bloom, the yonic cleave of a valley, the yonic enveloping of a snug turtleneck.'

'Necessarium' is a word used by monks for the loo. Do monks go to the loo? I never knew.

'Freezing the balls off brass monkeys' has an interesting etymology, not at all what you'd expect. A brass monkey was a nautical rack for storing cannonballs. 'Brass is apt to contract more than even anatomical balls in very chilly weather and, as a result, cannon balls were quite likely to drop off the newly shrunken rack.' Thus the balls were 'frozen off'. Very slightly disappointing, that one.

Some you will know. 'Pulchritudinous', meaning 'beautiful', is a word I use a lot, but 'lepid', meaning 'charming', was new to me.

So was 'fachidiot', a German word for someone whose skillset is so exclusively funnelled into their chosen vocation, or 'fach' (subject), that they're effectively useless at everything else. In other words, me.

Also 'kuidaore', which is Japanese for eating yourself into ruin.

The nearest Read Wilson can come to a translation is 'champagne on a cider budget', which isn't bad, but anyone who has bought themselves an expensive meal they cannot even begin to afford will probably have thought of something better.

Maybe such arrant poverty makes you liable to chrometophobia, an extreme fear of spending money. I have one Read Wilson doesn't know, and that's 'moth wallet', a sparkling term for a miser, or registered chrometophobe. Maybe that'll go in the paperback.

In the meantime, you know already whether you want this book for Christmas. I know, and I've already got it!

MUSTREADS

Out now in paperback

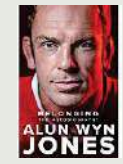
TASTE
by Stanley Tucci
(Fig Tree £9.99, 320pp)

THERE can't be many men who have wooed their future wives while plucking the feathers from a brace of dead pheasants.

But that is one of Stanley Tucci's fond memories of his courtship of his second wife, Felicity Blunt.

The Emmy award-winning actor, who lit up lockdown when Felicity posted a viral video of him making a Negroni, has a lifelong love affair with food. It started with his childhood in Katonah, New York, where he describes his mother's cooking as 'edible art'.

Even in his lean early years as a struggling actor, eating well was an obsession. Punctuated with delicious recipes, his seductively greedy memoir concludes with an account of the mouth cancer that long robbed him of the ability to enjoy food. Now happily recovered, he reflects that food doesn't just nourish us: it enriches mind, body and soul.



BELONGING
by Alun Wyn Jones
(Pan £9.99, 336pp)

ONE way to describe the Welsh rugby captain, Alun Wyn Jones, is single-minded. He seems to have inherited his relentless focus from his workaholic father, Tim.

Growing up in Mumbles, the son and grandson of rugby players, Alun took to the game with a passion that endures to this day. His training regime remains pitiless, working through injury and rest days alike.

With detailed match analysis that will delight aficionados, his memoir looks back on his career in themed chapters titled in both Welsh and English, including Cymeriad/Character and Cariad/Love.

He clearly has plenty of the former, but admits he might have some ground to make up on the cariad front: when his beloved wife, Anwen, wrote him a love note, he reciprocated by crossing out his own name, and replacing it with hers.

THE INTERVIEW
by C.M. Ewan
(Pan £8.99, 464pp)

'THE worst thing that can happen to you in an interview is getting caught in a lie.' As she makes her way on a Friday afternoon to a job interview at Edge, a new PR agency, Kate worries that her CV exaggerates her love of swimming.

It turns out that a white lie about her interests will prove the least of her troubles during her encounter with interviewer Joel White.

A former PR for a scandal-hit airline company, Kate is hoping to move on from a personal tragedy: her husband died when one of the company's planes crashed. But as the interview moves from standard questions to intrusive psychometric tests, and the office empties of staff, Kate realises something is very wrong.

C.M. Ewan's chilling locked-room thriller is packed with heart-stopping twists that make it impossible to put down.

JANE SHILLING

Picture: YOLAND BOSIGER

PICTURETHIS

FROZEN PLANET II BY MARK BROWNLOW AND ELIZABETH WHITE
(BBC Books £28, 312pp)

WHEN a female emperor penguin lays an egg, she has to carefully pass it to her male partner without it touching the ground or the embryo will freeze in the minus 40c Antarctic temperatures. He then shelters it in a brood pouch while she heads to the ocean to feed for two months. Her partner joins a huddle of other dads who keep the eggs warm and patiently wait for them to hatch. This informative book celebrates the diverse world of ice and snow — which amazingly covers one-fifth of the planet — from frosty slopes in Mount Kenya to Amur leopards in the Russian forest.

LILLY SUBBOTIN

MEMOIR

UNDOCTORED

by Adam Kay

(Trapeze £22, 288pp)

MARK MASON

Why the Bee Gees really can keep you STAYIN' ALIVE!

...if you ever need to resuscitate someone, that is – just one of the invaluable tips in Adam Kay's sequel to This Is Going To Hurt

Picture: REDFERNS

IF YOU ever find yourself having to resuscitate someone, think of The Archers. The radio show's theme tune gives you the perfect speed for chest compressions: 'rumpy pumpy pumpy pum, rumpy pumpy pah pah'. Or, should you be more of a Bee Gees fan, Stayin' Alive works just as well. Which is pleasing.

This is one of the medical snippets in Adam Kay's new book, the successor to his multi-million selling This Is Going To Hurt. It expands on the story from the first book, giving more details of his life as an NHS doctor-turned-comedy writer. The anecdotes are still hilarious, the personal life fascinating, the insights into our health service compelling.

Kay skips backwards and forwards in time. One minute we're learning (as he did at medical school) that it's 'diss-ection' not 'dice-section', and that, contrary to myth, nails and hair do not carry on growing after death. It just seems that way because the skin surrounding them retracts.

The next minute we're reading about the fictional agent Kay invented so that people would take him seriously as a writer. Emails from a fake address were no problem, but then someone insisted on talking to the agent. Kay had to buy a single-use 'burner' phone and beg his partner to play the part.

OR WE might find ourselves in the middle of a story about Kay having to (very carefully) cut a man's wedding ring off a part of the man's body it wasn't designed for. The ring was stopping blood from flowing, so said body part was kept in a permanently enlarged state, necessitating help. 'It was like emancipating a leech.'

What makes Kay such a likeable narrator is that he's fully prepared to admit his own mistakes.

Dissecting his first corpse at medical school, he found that his teacher was right: the body didn't bleed, because its heart was no longer pumping. But then suddenly it did start to bleed, and Kay was confused, until he realised that he had sliced through his own thumb.

On holiday in Las Vegas, Kay suddenly collapsed in a hotel corridor, a slipped disc pressing on a spinal nerve: 'I was splayed on the carpet like a chalk outline in Bergerac.'

Having to spend the rest of the trip in a wheelchair brought unexpected advantages. He and his partner found their Elton John tickets upgraded to the front row, 'where we had the honour of being soaked from head to foot in the great man's spit and sweat'.

As a patient, Kay shows that medics can be just as self-defeating as anyone else. On another occasion he was treated for a weak heart, which had his doctors mystified. They asked if there was anything in his past which might explain it.

Absolutely nothing, he said — refusing to mention the eating disorder which had seen him spend an entire year in a state of near-starvation. Looking back, he knows how wrong he was to see himself as fat: 'I'd give my left leg to weigh that amount today — in fact I'd have to give my left leg to weigh that amount today.'

His relationship history provides the same mix of tragedy and comedy. Despite seeing Valentine's Day as 'fun by appointment', he agreed to a restaurant visit with his partner (referred to throughout as 'J'). Though as he was rather short of funds, when J suggested a glass of champagne, Kay replied: 'Each?'

Running throughout the book are Kay's views on the NHS, and how it deals both with patients and its own staff. He acknowledges that he himself was ambivalent about becoming a doctor in the first place, feeling pressured into it by his parents (his father having been a GP).

But when the strain of life on the ward got to him, there was no one he could turn to. Colleagues tried to talk him out of resigning: 'To a doctor, admitting that medicine isn't for you, that you can't hack it, is unthinkable.'

It's part of a group-think mentality, an arrogance that also shows in the way medics often talk to their patients. Kay experienced this for himself, after an operation to remove his troublesome disc. He asked if he could keep the disc.

'The surgeon said no, of course not, so I asked why not, and he walked out of the room without any explanation.'

KAY hates such aloofness. 'You can get full marks in your written exams, but if you can't make a genuine connection with your patients then you're bull**** at your job.'

During his training he was told by a surgeon: 'Get your hair cut. You look like a girl.'

Infuriated, Kay allowed himself one remaining sign of individuality — a single painted thumbnail. A gay patient, worried about the implications of a forthcoming operation for his sex life, but too nervous to ask about them, spotted the thumbnail. It gave him the courage to question Kay, who provided the reassurance the patient needed.

The surgeon, on the other hand, spotted the nail and said: 'That had better be a bruise.'

Kay calls for a change both in the people who are chosen to be doctors, and the way they're trained. When outsiders criticise the NHS they're accused of wanting to dismantle or privatise it.

It's a knee-jerk reaction that prevents the worst sort of NHS employee from considering their own failings.

Here's hoping that, as a former health service insider, Kay receives a bit more attention.

How the walrus lost his neck wrinkles

MR. HORNIMAN'S WALRUS

by Clare Paterson (Michael O'Mara £20, 272pp)

NICK RENNISON

IN 1886, one of the star attractions of the Colonial And Indian Exhibition in Kensington was a stuffed walrus. Queen Victoria visited the exhibition and admired it.

It may have been the first time she'd seen a walrus. It was probably also the first one the beast's taxidermists had come across.

Unaware that a walrus's thick skin is folded in loose layers, they'd ironed out its wrinkles and presented a surprisingly sleek, smooth creature.

The tea merchant Frederick Horniman was so impressed that he bought it when the exhibition closed. It can still be seen today at the Horniman Museum in South London.

For more than a century, visitors have enjoyed the collections of the Horniman without knowing much about the family after which it's named. In this delightful, book, Clare Paterson looks at the lives of three generations of Hornimans.

Born in 1803, John Horniman was the founder of the family's fortunes. His father — 'that rare bird, a drunken Quaker', as one historian described him — died aged 41. His mother quickly embarked on a second marriage to a widower with two daughters.

John's business career was initially a chequered one. He was a grocer in Birmingham, a cheese merchant in Somerset, and a draper in Northampton.

At one point he was bankrupt, cast out of his Quaker community.

However, in middle age he hit upon the one idea that made him a very wealthy man. He decided to sell tea. Instead of selling loose tea, he would offer it in foil-lined sealed packets to guarantee its purity. This was an immediate success.

Horniman's Tea was soon familiar in every household in the country. Adverts appeared showing Gladstone, Florence Nightingale and a then-famous preacher named Charles Spurgeon. John's son, Frederick, the walrus purchaser, inherited the family business and fortune. An enthusiastic collector from youth, his money enabled him to splash out.

A list of other items he bought from the Colonial And Indian Exhibition ('Bombay prayer mats, carved daggers... a life-sized model of a Burmese man and a Burmese girl... a bronze Hindu deity, and Queensland moths and butterflies in a case') gives some indication of his range of interests.

By 1883, his collection was already so huge it required a full-time curator to look after it. During the year 1890, 40,000 people received an invitation from Horniman to inspect his enormous cabinet of curiosities.

His wife gave him an ultimatum. No longer could thousands of visitors traipse through the marital home. A museum was built which Horniman eventually donated to the London County Council in 1901.

Frederick's daughter, Annie, was, in Paterson's words, 'a crop-haired, chain-smoking, bloomer-sporting cyclist with an independent mindset'. As a young woman, she had ambitions to be an artist. She was drawn to the occult and joined the legendary Order Of The Golden Dawn until she fell out with its increasingly weird founder, MacGregor Mathers. She claimed to make regular astral journeys through time and space.

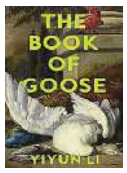
After Frederick's death in 1906, his daughter came into her own, achieving the landmarks in theatre history for which she is best remembered.

She used her inheritance to fund the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, until she fell out with its other backers. She established the Gaiety Theatre in Manchester, which played a leading role in the promotion of contemporary drama in the 1910s.

Today, Horniman's Tea is largely a name from the past. The brand, which (curiously) remains popular in Spain, has long disappeared from the shelves of British shops.

However, as Clare Paterson makes clear, the Horniman family itself should not be forgotten.

LITERARY FICTION
by CLAIRE ALLFREE



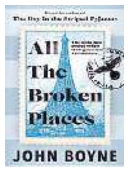
THE BOOK OF GOOSE
by Yiyun Li
(Fourth Estate £14.99, 368pp)

YIYUN LI'S recent books have been deeply informed by her personal life, including her battles with depression and the suicide of her teenage son, most notably in the extraordinary novel Where Reasons End, which imagined a mother's conversations with her dead child.

She's made an abrupt change of direction with this beguiling new novel, which looks back on a dangerously intense female friendship in impoverished rural France between Agnes, a mousy farm girl, and the wilder Fabienne, who is always in control.

Together the girls write a book, Fabienne dictating, Agnes writing it down, which becomes such a success on the back of its death-soaked portraits of village life that Agnes is feted as a child prodigy and taken to England by a calculating headmistress determined to mould her for her own ends.

This is a shimmering, unsettling tale of exploitation and manipulation, of children at the hands of adults and of adults at the hands of children, and with the art of novel writing itself presented as perhaps the most manipulative of all.

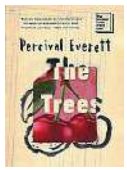


ALL THE BROKEN PLACES
by John Boyne
(Doubleday £20, 384pp)

THIS adult sequel to Boyne's controversial children's Holocaust weepie The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas, picks up the story of Gretel — sister of Bruno, the young German boy who befriended the Jewish boy Shmuel in the camp, and the daughter of the camp's Nazi commander.

Now 91, Gretel has successfully lived as a recluse in her Hyde Park flat for decades, her identity unknown. That is until the violent domestic situation of a younger female neighbour, which threatens the safety of the latter's young son, forces upon her a choice: to say silent, or to intervene and risk blowing her cover.

Boyne alternates Gretel's dilemma with flashbacks to her life with her mother in the immediate aftermath of the war, and in doing so admirably defies the notion that sympathetic explorations of those complicit by association in Nazi war crimes have no place in fiction. Unfortunately, though, Boyne's skills as a novelist are nowhere near adequate to the immense task he has set himself and the result is crassly reductive.



THE TREES
by Percival Everett
(Influx £9.99, 334pp)

PERHAPS the most startling novel on this year's Booker shortlist is this macabre black comedy by America's Percival Everett, which casts the legacy of the 1955 lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Mississippi in the form of a pulp B movie nightmare.

A white man is found brutally dismembered, the body of a black man next to him.

The latter's body goes missing, yet turns up, soon after, next to another dead white man, also savagely mutilated.

Two black FBI agents are dispatched to investigate, yet the body count continues to rise, the massacre sites spreading across the country, each victim having links to white supremacist movements, and the bodies of more black men always in attendance.

Everett deploys goofy humour and caricature in a high stakes, high concept crime novel in which America's history of racial violence is itself the perpetrator.

Wedding nerves or a huge mistake?

CONTEMPORARY
SARA LAWRENCE

Illustration: IFAN BATES

BEFORE I DO
by Sophie Cousens
(Hodder £8.99, 400pp)

THE night before Audrey's wedding to Josh she is confronted by a face she hasn't seen in six years. It belongs to Fred — a man she spent only one day with but hasn't stopped thinking about since.

Audrey has looked for him in countless crowds and the synchronicity of him turning up out of the blue like this seems beyond a coincidence.

What with Granny Parker's constant referencing of bad omens and the fact that everything seems to be going wrong, not to mention Audrey's own private doubts, she wonders if Fred's arrival is a neon warning sign that she's about to make the biggest mistake of her life.

I'm a big fan of Cousens's beautifully written, pacy stories and this one is especially good on relationships, expectations, second chances and how hard it can be to let go. I adored witnessing Audrey's growth as she learns to trust herself and steps into her own power.

THIS IS US
by Helen McGinn
(Boldwood £12.99, 262pp)

THIS is McGinn's third novel and it's her best yet. Stella thinks her life with husband Simon, their three young children and successful family business is pretty perfect.

When he disappears without trace and barely any warning, Stella is forced to confront the idea that she doesn't actually know anything about the man she's been married to for so long.

Her fabulous best friends step in and step up, booking a girls' weekend in Florence. Then Stella heads to the Isle of Mull to follow up on a clue about Simon's mysterious past. As she uncovers yet more uncomfortable truths it becomes exponentially easier for her to move on.

It's packed full of emotional wisdom, heartbreak and hope and is particularly brilliant on the importance of friendship and taking things one day at a time. Wonderful — I loved it.

THE AMERICAN ROOMMATE EXPERIMENT
by Elena Armas
(S&S £8.99, 416pp)

PROTAGONIST Rosie isn't having the greatest time when the ceiling of her New York apartment falls down and she's forced to flee in the middle of the night to her best friend's vacant home.

What Rosie doesn't know is that her friend's ridiculously attractive cousin, Lucas, is also planning to stay there.

Rosie has lusted after Lucas online for months and can't believe she finally gets to meet her crush in real life when she's exhausted, stressed and looking her worst.

They end up living together with Lucas consistently providing fun solutions to Rosie's many problems. Both characters are beautifully drawn and highly relatable and I rooted for them from the start.

The narrative alternates between their points of view, zipping along as they progress from acquaintances to roommates to friends to lovers. It's great on crushes and longing and the deep satisfaction of a slow-burn romance eventually reaching boiling point. This romcom is fresh, funny and highly enjoyable.

CLASSIC CRIME
BARRY TURNER

BLACKSTONE FELL
by Martin Edwards
(Head of Zeus £20, 448pp)

FOR his latest classic mystery, Martin Edwards serves up an engaging mix of ingredients familiar to fans of golden age crime. A remote village on the Yorkshire moors harbours secrets: two murders, 300 years apart, have been committed in the close confines of Blackstone Tower.

When an intrepid journalist, one of the rare women reporters of 1930s Fleet Street, also meets an untimely end, it is left to private investigator Rachel Savernake, beautiful, rich and fiercely intelligent, to identify the guilty and to exorcise the evil that permeates Blackstone Fell.

What goes on behind the walls of the sanatorium where psychiatric treatment is liable to prove fatal? What can be learned from a spiritualist whose seances, though fraudulent, provide vital clues?

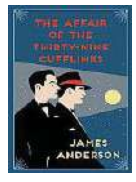
The plot is intricate but never less than compelling. Martin Edwards holds his own with the best of classic crime.

GREEN FOR DANGER
by Christianna Brand
(British Library £9.99, 256pp)

DEATH is never far away from a wartime hospital. But in an operating room on the south coast, with its heavy intake of air raid casualties, there is added crisis when a patient dies unexpectedly under anaesthetic.

The easy assumption of an accident caused by overwork is set aside when it is made clear someone has tampered with the equipment. Even so, Inspector Cockrill doubts foul play — that is, until a second death, this time of one of the nurses, leaves no doubt that a killer is at large.

Christianna Brand uses her first-hand knowledge of the Blitz to give a vivid word picture of a close-knit medical team under intense pressure. Nerves are stretched to breaking point by Cockrill's persistent questioning as he aims to force a confession. Meanwhile, the shocking truth remains tantalisingly out of reach.



THE AFFAIR OF THE THIRTY-NINE CUFFLINKS
by James Anderson
(Allison & Busby £8.99, 351pp)

THERE is more than a touch of P.G. Wodehouse in the crime novels of James Anderson. The latter's contribution is to throw in a murder, along with a detective deceptively reverential to the aristocracy.

The last two weekend house parties at Lord Burford's rural retreat resulted in the violent death of a guest.

Then nine relatives gather for the funeral of one of their number. What follows is a well-structured mystery dispatch of a scandal-monger feared by the rest of the group, all of whom have something to hide. For black comedy, James Anderson is hard to beat.

CHILDREN'S
SALLY MORRIS

WHICH WAY TO ANYWHERE
by Cressida Cowell
(Hodder £12.99, 464pp)

A NEW Cressida Cowell series lifts the spirits as autumn damp descends. Twins K2 and Izzabird and step-siblings Theo and Mabel are forced into an unhappily 'blended' family — with a difference.

K2 has inherited ancient magic from his mother and has a rare gift: he can draw an alternative atlas of other cosmic worlds — and pinpoint the Which Way portal into them. When an evil alien hunter (disguised as a geography teacher) comes looking for him, the children escape to Excelsiar, a planet where The Beast kills humans for destroying all the silk trees.

A witty, rip-roaring battle of good and evil, secrets and lies, monsters and magic ensues, illustrated with Cowell's signature black and white sketches, and underpinned by an ecological message. FAB-U-LOUS.

Age 9+

UNRAVELLER
by Frances Hardinge
(Macmillan £14.99, 496pp)

A FANTASY world and special gifts are also at the heart of multi-award-winning Hardinge's new book. The clever concept is that volatile, 15-year-old Kellen can unravel curses cast by the spider-like Little Brothers.

Kellen teams up with Nettle, a girl he 'unravelled' from being bewitched into a heron, then discovers that someone with a grudge has vowed revenge on him, but who? Gall, a terrifying, one-eyed marsh horseman offers him a deal to survive — but can he be trusted? Can anyone?

It's complex, twisty, with a sometimes bewilderingly large cast of characters, but the pace never flags.

Age 12+

AS LONG AS THE LEMON TREES GROW
by Zoulfa Katouh
(Bloomsbury £12.99, 448pp)

THE horrifying reality of war is the backdrop for this impressive and unflinching debut. Salama abandons her pharmacy studies to be a makeshift doctor during the war in Syria in 2011.

While bombs explode and chemical weapons burn, she loses most of her family and promises her missing brother to help her pregnant sister-in-law escape in an illegal boat. But she's haunted by the malevolent hallucination of Khawf (Fear) who shows her horrific images she wants to forget.

When she meets Kenan, a boy once suggested for an arranged marriage, she faces a life-changing moral dilemma in order to survive. First love, conscience, pragmatism, psychological damage and a shocking twist all collide in this touching and timely reminder of hope and human cruelty.

Age 14+

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PICK OF TODAY'S TV

PROFESSOR T, 9PM, ITV

THE troubled Professor Tempest (Ben Miller) makes it clear that he has a strictly academic interest in crime — but the Cambridge police still need his brilliant mind to solve tricky cases. In the second series of this sleuth show — a remake of the hit Belgian series of the same name, which aired on Channel 4 — we learn more about the title character as his eccentricities are unpacked by a therapist (Juliet Stevenson), much to the horror of his domineering mother, Adelaide (a scene-stealing Frances de la Tour, pictured with Miller). The Professor's personal life gets messier as he rekindles his relationship with DCI Christina Brand (Juliet Aubrey), while his protegee, DC Lisa Donckers (Bridgerton's Emma Naomi) also struggles with her love life. In this first of six episodes, the police reluctantly call on the genius Professor's expertise to assist with their investigation into a fire in a block of student flats, which has left one of the occupants in a coma. CID's suspicions are raised when it emerges that the victim was drugged in advance.

SEASONAL TASKS

Gardeners' World, 8pm, BBC2

MONTY DON shows us how he's preparing for autumn by pruning raspberries, dividing perennials and planting daffodils and hyacinths in containers. Carol Klein marvels at the work of self-seeding plants in Shropshire, while JJ Chalmers heads to North Yorkshire to continue the celebration of the Queen's Green Canopy.

ON THE HOOK

Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing, 9pm, BBC2

BOB and Paul (pictured) — and terrier Ted — set out to fish for grayling in the River Dee in Wales. So far on their travels, Bob has been unable to catch the 'lady of the stream', and it seems he lacks the patience to hook a grayling again, instead pretending to be a barista on the riverbank. After a serene day of fishing, the pair sit in their accommodation, surrounded by flowers, and get philosophical as they muse about ageing and eternal life.

	BBC	BBC 2	ITV	CHANNEL 4
	6.00 **Breakfast** (HD) **10.00** **BBC News Special** (HD) **10.30** **HM The King in Wales** (HD) **2.00** **BBC News at One;** Weather (HD) **2.30** **BBC Regional News;** Weather **2.45** **Doctors** (AD,HD) Jimmi tries to convince Bear to join his new venture. Al worries that things aren't getting better. Sid helps a young man who feels guilty after saving two children from drowning. **3.15** **Escape to the Country** (R,HD) Ginny Buckley is joined by her mother in helping a family to find a Yorkshire home, and gets some advice on what it means to be a proud Yorkshire resident. **3.45** **The Bidding Room** (R,HD) The dealers are intrigued by a collection of 1940s costume drawings, an Edwardian safe, a cluster of unusual figurines and a very old Corpus Christi. **4.30** **Antiques Road Trip** (HD) Raj Bisram and Irita Marriott embrace their inner pirate as they plunder the shops of Cornwall. They then head to the final auction to see who will emerge victorious. **5.15** **Pointless** (R,HD) Quiz show, hosted by Alexander Armstrong. **6.00** **BBC News at Six;** Weather (HD) **6.30** **BBC Regional News;** Weather	**6.30** **Escape to the Country** (AD,R,HD) **7.15** **Antiques Road Trip** (R,HD) **8.00** **Weatherman Walking** (BSL,R,HD) **8.30** **Weatherman Walking** (BSL,R,HD) **9.00** **A Highland Haven: Natural World** (BSL,R,HD) Fergus Beeley films the wildlife of the Highlands. **10.00** **Animal Park Summer** (R,HD) **10.45** **The Farmers' Country Showdown** (R,HD) Highland cattle farmers Simon and Emma exhibit at the Great Yorkshire Show. **11.15** **Homes Under the Hammer** (R,HD) Properties purchased in Kent, Liverpool and London. **12.15** **Bargain Hunt** (R,HD) From the Elsecar Heritage Centre, Yorkshire. **1.00** **Best Bakes Ever** (R,HD) A selection of recipes from television chefs. **1.45** **Money for Nothing** (R,HD) Transforming items from a tip. **2.45** **BBC News** (HD) The latest national and international stories. **6.00** **Richard Osman's House of Games** (HD) Rob Deering, Katya Jones, Jayne Middlemiss and Phil Tufnell go toe to toe in a variety of trivia-based games. **6.30** **Unbeatable** (HD) General knowledge quiz, hosted by Jason Manford, in which four contestants vie to find the 'unbeatable' answer to win a cash prize.	**6.00** **Good Morning Britain** (HD) Morning magazine featuring a lively mix of news and current affairs. **9.00** **Lorraine** (HD) Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as celebrity gossip. **10.00** **News Special: The King's Tour — Wales** (HD) Live coverage of HM The King's visit to Wales. **1.30** **News;** Weather (HD) **1.55** **Regional News;** Weather (HD) **2.00** **Dickinson's Real Deal** (AD,HD) David Dickinson and his team of dealers assess items brought in by members of the public. **3.00** **Tenable** (HD) Quiz hosted by Warwick Davis, in which a team of five members of a Cardiff family answer questions about top-ten lists; Regional Weather **4.00** **Tipping Point** (HD) Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot. **5.00** **The Chase** (HD) Bradley Walsh presents as Hilary, Ben, Alex and John pit their wits against one of the ruthless Chasers in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. **6.00** **Regional News;** Weather (HD) **6.30** **News;** Weather (HD)	**6.10** **Countdown** (R,HD) **6.50** **3rd Rock from the Sun** (AD,R) **7.15** **3rd Rock from the Sun** (AD,R) **7.40** **Everybody Loves Raymond** (AD,R) **8.05** **Everybody Loves Raymond** (AD,R) **8.30** **Everybody Loves Raymond** (AD,R) **9.00** **Frasier** (AD,R) **9.30** **Frasier** (AD,R) **10.00** **Frasier** (AD,R) **10.30** **Four in a Bed** (R,HD) **11.00** **The Great House Giveaway** (R,HD) Two strangers pair up to renovate a property in Llandudno, North Wales. **12.00** **Channel 4 News Summary** (HD) **12.30** **Steph's Packed Lunch** (HD) Weekday magazine show, hosted by Steph McGovern. **2.10** **Countdown** (HD) Rick Edwards is in Dictionary Corner. **3.00** **A Place in the Sun** (R,HD) Engaged couple Ray and Ali seek their dream holiday home in northern Tuscany. **4.00** **Chateau DIY** (AD,HD) Nick aims to finish opening up the entrance hall of his derelict chateau. **5.00** **Moneybags** (HD) Quiz show, hosted by Craig Charles. **6.00** **The Simpsons** (AD,R) Maude is killed in a tragic accident at a racetrack. **6.30** **Hollyoaks** (AD,R,HD) James makes a fuss over Leela, but Ste confuses his concern. Later, all eyes are on James as he makes a big confession.
7 PM	**7.00** **The One Show: Our Queen Remembered** (HD) Alex Jones and Gethin Jones share viewers' memories of the Queen. **7.30** **HM The Queen: The Vigil** (HD)	**7.00** **Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs** (R,HD) Paul Murton discovers a forgotten First World War German prison camp. **7.30** **Beechgrove** (HD) Carole Baxter visits a grower of chillies.		**7.00** **Channel 4 News** (HD)
8 PM	**8.15** **The Repair Shop** (HD) Experts restore family heirlooms and treasured possessions to their former glory.	**8.00** PICK **Gardeners' World** (HD) Monty Don demonstrates how to prune summer fruiting raspberries, divides perennials and plants daffodils and hyacinths in containers.	**8.00** **Emmerdale** (AD,HD) An excited Charity prepares for her trip away as Mackenzie answers a call. **8.30** **Emmerdale** (AD,HD) Liam returns home with Leyla but things are tense between them.	**8.00** **The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice** (AD,HD) New series. Host Jo Brand is joined by celebrity fans Harry Hill, Melvin Odoom and Roisin Conaty to discuss the new batch of bakers.
9 PM	**9.00** **Celebrity MasterChef** (AD,HD) The remaining contenders begin finals week, serving up afternoon tea for 12 famous guests at Alexandra Palace, before making a dish inspired by their childhood.	**9.00** PICK **Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing** (AD,HD) Bob and Paul travel to the Crogen Estate in North Wales. **9.30** **Martin Compston's Scottish Fling** (AD,HD) The actor and Phil MacHugh visit the Western Isles.	**9.00** PICK **Professor T** (AD,HD) New series. A student is left badly burnt and in a coma after a house fire, and the detectives investigating call in Professor T. Return of the crime drama, starring Ben Miller.	**9.00** **Gogglebox** (HD) The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week, with cameras capturing their instant reactions.
10 PM	**10.00** **BBC News at Ten** (HD)	**10.00** **QI** (R) Sandi Toksvig hosts the quiz with a difference as Sara Pascoe, Stephen K. Amos, Jason Manford and Alan Davies answer questions on the theme of plants. **10.30** **Newsnight** (HD) (Followed by Weather)	**10.00** **News** (HD) (Followed by Weather) **10.30** **Regional News** (HD) (Followed by Weather) **10.45** **The NFL Show** (HD) Highlights of the opening match of week two, between Kansas City Chiefs and Los Angeles Chargers.	**10.00** **The Last Leg** (HD) Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by guests Richard Ayoade and Aisling Bea. **10.50** **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown** (R,HD) With Lucy Beaumont and Roisin Conaty.
11 PM	**11.00** **BBC Regional News** (Followed by Weather) **11.05** **Elizabeth R — A Year in the Life of The Queen** (R,HD) A year of unprecedented access to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.	**11.05** **MOTDx** (R,HD) Football discussion presented by Jermaine Jenas. **11.35** **Fake or Fortune?** (R,HD) The origins of a 17th-century painting of Christ having just been brought down from the cross, currently hanging in a Port Glasgow church.	**11.45** **Bradley & Barney Walsh: Breaking Dad** (AD,R,HD) The actor and his son visit Hungary.	**11.55** **One Night in Legoland** (AD,R,HD) Alex Brooker and Josh Widdicombe are joined by Jon Richardson and Lucy Beaumont, as they experience the joy of spending an access-all-areas night in Legoland. Last in series.
12 MNT	**12.55** **Weather for the Week Ahead** (HD) **1.00** BBC News (HD)	**12.35** **Elizabeth: Her Passions & Pastimes** (BSL,R,HD) How the Queen relaxed away from the gaze of the public eye. **1.35** Saving Lives at Sea (BSL,R,HD) The story of the unpaid volunteers who work for the RNLI. **2.35** This Is BBC2 (HD)	**12.05** **Shop: Ideal World** (HD) **3.00** Queen and Country (R,HD) A look at Elizabeth II's love of country life. **3.55** Unwind with ITV (HD) **5.00** Our Queen: The People's Stories (R,HD) People from all walks of life reflect on meeting the Queen.	**12.50** FILM **FILM: Upgrade** (2018) (15) ◆ (HD) Sci-fi thriller, starring Logan Marshall-Green. **2.30** Ramy (R,HD) **3.00** Ramy (R,HD) **3.45** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free (R,HD) **4.00** Come Dine with Me (R,HD) Five dinner parties in Peterborough.

(R) Repeat. (HD) High Definition. (AD) Audio Description. (b/w) Not in colour. (BSL) British Sign Language.

■ Family viewing ● Generally suitable for all ◆ Caution recommended

BEST OF BRITISH

The Costwolds & Beyond With Pam Ayres, 8pm, Ch5

THIS episode of Pam's restful series, postponed from last week, joins the poet at Highclere Castle in Hampshire — more familiar to most of us as Downton Abbey — where she meets the owner, Lady Carnarvon (pictured), and finds out about the glorious gardens designed by Capability Brown. Pam also shows us around her historic home town of Cirencester, before heading for the seaside at Weston-super-Mare.

FILM CHOICE

The Enforcer, 10pm, Ch5

CLINT EASTWOOD'S third Dirty Harry outing finds the dogged cop having a very bad day, not because of the terrorists he's got to catch, but because he's been assigned a female partner (Tyne Daly). That doesn't mean that this macho franchise goes soft in any way…

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Kid-E-Cats (HD) **6.05** Peppa Pig (AD,R,HD) **6.10** Peppa Pig (AD,R,HD) **6.15** Peppa Pig (AD,R,HD) **6.20** Mya Go (R,HD) **6.30** Blue's Clues & You (R,HD) **6.55** Fireman Sam (R,HD) **7.05** Thomas & Friends: All Engines Go! (HD) **7.15** Peppa Pig (AD,R) **7.20** Peppa Pig (AD,HD) **7.25** Paw Patrol (R,HD) **7.35** Milo (R,HD) **7.50** Pip and Posy (R,HD) **8.05** The Adventures of Paddington (R,HD) **8.20** Ricky Zoom (R,HD) **8.35** Peppa Pig (AD,R) **8.40** Daisy & Ollie (R,HD) **8.50** Odo (AD,R) **8.55** Kangaroo Beach (R,HD) **9.10** Sunny Bunnies (R,HD)

9.15 Jeremy Vine (HD) The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day, with co-host Storm Huntley joining him for phone-ins.

12.45 Holiday Homes in the Sun (HD)

1.40 5 News at Lunchtime (HD)

1.45 Home and Away (AD,HD)

2.15 Killer at the School Gates (2022) (12) ● (HD) Premiere. A single mother joins the parent-teacher association at her daughter's new school, and finds herself at odds with a power-hungry member. Thriller, starring Brianna Cohen. FILM

4.00 Bargain Loving Brits by the Sea (R,HD) Britons living the high life on a low budget in holiday resorts.

5.00 5 News (HD)

6.00 Cash in the Attic (AD,HD) Helping people to make money from the items they have accumulated.

7.00 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out in the Welsh Mountains (R,HD) The comedian climbs the dramatic and spectacular peaks of North Wales, and stops off at the Tu Hwnt Ir Bont Tearoom.

7.55 5 News Update (HD)

8.00 The Cotswolds & Beyond with Pam Ayres (HD) Pam's journey begins beyond the Cotswolds borders at Highclere Castle. (Followed by 5 News Update) PICK

9.00 Digging for Treasure: Tonight (HD) Dan Walker, Michaela Strachan and Raksha Dave set up camp in the shadow of Southwark Cathedral in London, focusing on mudlarking on the banks of the Thames. Last in series.

10.00 The Enforcer (1976) (18) ▲ (HD) Maverick cop 'Dirty' Harry Callahan is unwillingly teamed up with a female partner as he takes on terrorists who have stolen a shipment of weapons and explosives and plan to hold the city of San Francisco to ransom. Crime thriller sequel, starring Clint Eastwood, Tyne Daly, Harry Guardino and John Mitchum. FILM CHOICE

12.15 Police Interceptors (R,HD) **1.00** The Great Smog: Winter of '52 (R,HD) **2.00** The Pyrenees with Michael Portillo (R,HD) **3.05** Cruising with Jane McDonald (R,HD) **5.05** Wildlife SOS (BSL,R,HD) **5.25** Entertainment News (HD) **5.30** Peppa Pig (AD,BSL,R) **5.35** Paw Patrol (BSL,R,HD)

▲ Particularly liable to offend

There's nowt more comforting than a Yorkshire vet's wedding

ROLAND WHITE

LAST NIGHT'S TV

All Creatures Great And Small ★★★★★

My Grandparents' War ★★★★☆

THE bride spent the morning mucking out, and the groom woke up in a barn after his stag night before testing a herd of cattle for TB. The ring was eaten by a dog, who was sick in the car as the groom — who'd lost his shoes — raced to the church.

All in all, a perfectly normal wedding day on **All Creatures Great And Small** (C5).

If you needed cheering up after recent events, this should have done the trick.

Pretty much every old joke about weddings was there.

The best man losing the ring? Check. The happy couple made do with a bit of knotted string.

Hangovers after a rowdy stag night? Check. One moment we saw James (Nicholas Ralph) downing a yard of ale, and the next thing we knew it was morning and Mrs Hall was asking Siegfried (Samuel West) why his trousers were in the pantry.

Doubts before the big day? Check. Helen (Rachel Shenton) has form on this matter, but was just teasing her father this time.

Nothing was seriously going to go wrong (unless you were a cow with a broken leg). You know what you're going to get from All Creatures Great And Small: the cosiest of comfort viewing.

Everything looks wonderful in Darrowby, and almost everybody has a kind word. Even the grumpy farmers of the 1980s adaptation seem to have been cleared off the moors.

They're still admirably unexcitable, though. When Helen's father first saw her in the bridal gown, she shyly asked: 'Look all right?'

'Fair to middling,' he replied. In 1930s Yorkshire, there could be no higher praise.

Apart from wondering what Helen sees in her goody-goody husband, I have only one small quibble. When James met his parents off the bus, he and his father embraced warmly. Did blokes really do that in the pre-war North?

As the young men of Darrowby set off for war service, and James wondered whether he should be doing his bit, there were dramatic real-life adventures revealed in **My Grandparents' War** (C4).

In the first episode of a new series, actor Kit Harington, best known as Jon Snow in Game Of Thrones, offered up his grandparents and their distinguished war record for inspection.

His maternal grandmother Pippa was a nurse in Exeter. As bombs rained down on the city, she had only a tin basin to protect her head.

As she passed a soldier one day, he gave her his tin helmet and romance blossomed. As it would. Greater love hath no man than to surrender his headgear in a bombing raid.

You'll not be surprised to learn that the man in question, John Catesby, later won an MC in Italy.

Kit's paternal grandparents both worked for British intelligence during the war. Grandmother Lavender, based in Barbados, intercepted letters from America and helped to discover nine enemy agents.

Grandfather John was a senior agent for both MI5 and MI6 in the Caribbean, tasked at one point with spying on the Duke of Windsor, who was governor of Barbados but an unapologetic Nazi sympathiser.

Kit's excitement on learning all this was very touching. In fact, he had only one complaint about his grandparents. 'If they'd just passed me a few more of the tall genes, I might have been up for Bond,' he sighed. 'They gave me everything, but they made me 5ft 7in — about two or three inches too short.'

HISTORY LESSON OF THE WEEK: Why have so many invaders come to grief in Afghanistan? An Afghan historian explained to Rory Stewart in The Great Game (BBC4). 'It's really easy to get into Afghanistan,' he said. 'It's getting out that's very difficult.'

WELSH TV VARIATIONS

BBC1: 1.30pm BBC Wales Today; Weather. **6.30** BBC Wales Today; Weather. **8.15** Wales' Home of the Year. **8.45** Weatherman Walking. Derek Brockway explores the headland of Great Orme, and walks from Llangynog to the Pistyll Rhaeadr waterfall. **10.40** Rewind: 60 Years of Welsh Pop. **11.10** Wales: Music Nation with Huw Stephens. **12.10am** Deepfake Porn: Could You Be Next? **1.10** Ladhood. **1.35** News.

BBC2: 7.30 Iolo: A Wild Life. Naturalist Iolo Williams recalls one of his first TV appearances, in which he was looking for black grouse on Ruabon Mountain.

ITV: 7.00pm Welsh Lives.

S4C: 6.00am Cyw. **11.00** Newyddion S4C: Ymweliad y Brenin a Chymru. **3.30pm** Cymru O'r Awyr. **4.00** Awr Fawr: Cywion Bach. **4.05** Awr Fawr: Odo. **4.15** Awr Fawr: Sbarc. **4.30** Awr Fawr: Stiw. **4.45** Awr Fawr: Deian a Loli. **5.00** Stwnsh. **6.00** Trefi Gwyllt Iolo. **6.30** Garddio a Mwy. **6.57** Newyddion S4C. **7.00** Heno. **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd. **8.30** Triathlon Cymru. **9.00** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer. **9.30** Prosiect Pum Mil. **10.30** Oci Oci Oci.

Get Your NEW Equity Release & Later-Life Mortgages Guide

written by Money Mail editor **Victoria Bischoff**

The Daily Mail has produced a comprehensive and practical guide, which will help explain everything you need to know about equity release – and it's FREE to all our readers.

Equity release may involve a home reversion plan or a lifetime mortgage which is secured against your property. Request your personalised illustration to understand the features and risks.

Equity release requires paying off any existing mortgage. Any money released, plus accrued interest, is to be repaid upon death or moving into long-term care.

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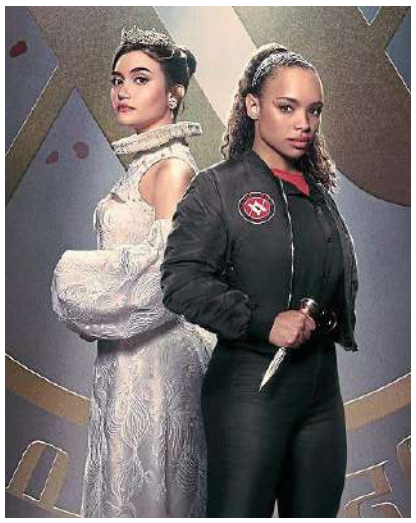
PICK OF DIGITAL & ON DEMAND TV

VAMPIRE ACADEMY, PEACOCK (VIA SKY/NOW)

IN 1897, Bram Stoker published Dracula, and he had absolutely no idea what he was starting — 125 years later, we're still in love with vampires. After Buffy, the Twilight saga, True Blood and The Strain, now there's Vampire Academy, an eagerly awaited ten-part series based on a bestselling young adult series by Richelle Mead. It's set at prestigious St Vladimir's, a hidden boarding school for training vampire royals and their half-human guardians. There, we follow the good vampire princess Lissa Dragomir and her best friend and guardian, Rose Hathaway (Daniela Nieves and Sisi Stringer, pictured), as they look to navigate their way through a world full of politics, intrigue, a lot of romance and evil vampires in the shape of the Strigoi. The first of Mead's books was previously made into a flop of a film in 2014, but this good-looking adaptation promises to have much more to sink your teeth into. Episodes one to four are available today, with the rest to follow weekly.



ROMCOM MOVIE

Marry Me, 8pm, Sky Premiere

JENNIFER LOPEZ stars as Kat Valdez, a pop megastar who is supposed to marry her fiance on stage as a publicity stunt. But when she discovers he's been cheating on her, she impulsively decides to marry a man in the audience instead — maths teacher Charlie (Owen Wilson, pictured with Lopez). This is an enjoyable, old-school romcom and it works largely because of the chemistry between the leads.

ARCTIC ADVENTURE

The Grand Tour Presents: A Scandi-Flick, Prime Video

FAST cars, snow-filled landscapes and general mayhem are all on the menu as the former Top Gear trio of James May, Richard Hammond and Jeremy Clarkson embark on their latest escapade: a motorised trek across the Arctic Circle from the coast of Norway to the Russian border. Will they be able to handle the sub-zero temperatures and some of the toughest driving conditions they have ever encountered?

CREEPY TALE

Goodnight Mommy, Prime Video

IS THE woman with a bandaged face waiting for a pair of twins to arrive at her remote farmhouse really their mother, recovering from plastic surgery? Or has someone with evil intent replaced her? This U.S. remake of a 2014 Austrian horror film has lost none of the original's chilling intensity, and Naomi Watts, head swathed in bandages for almost the entire film, is a magnificently unsettling figure, imposing new rules on the twins as her behaviour darkens.

Time	BBC 4	E4	ITV2
	9 (Scot 24)	13	6
7.00pm	**Ultimate Cover Versions at the BBC** Sixty years of cover performances from the Corporation's archive, featuring the Moody Blues, Soft Cell and Alexandra Burke	**Hollyoaks** Sid visits his former drug-dealing boss Victor in prison	**Secret Crush** Moses lays his heart on the line to colleague Megan, while bodybuilder Josh thinks it is a good idea to try to reignite an old flame with Eve
7.30pm		**The Big Bang Theory** Bernadette takes an interest in physics	
8.00pm	**TOTP: 1993** With performances by Dannii Minogue and 4 Non Blondes	**Below Deck: Mediterranean** After Ben apologises for shutting down Bryan and Tiffany's fun, and the crew prepares for the next charter	**Bob's Burgers** Tina sends a robot version of herself to school
8.30pm	**TOTP: 1993** Performances by Roxette and Urban Cookie Collective		**Bob's Burgers** Bob attempts to impress Linda with a gesture
9.00pm	**Carole King: In Concert** A 1971 performance by Carole King	**HD War of the Worlds (2005,12)** A divorced father tries to protect his two children as alien war machines start to wipe out the human race. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi thriller, with Tom Cruise, Dakota Fanning, Justin Chatwin, Miranda Otto and Tim Robbins	**HD 2 Fast 2 Furious (2003,12)** A disgraced cop is given a chance to redeem himself by going undercover to bring a drug trafficker to justice. Thriller sequel, with Paul Walker reprising his role from *The Fast and the Furious* alongside Tyrese Gibson, Eva Mendes and Cole Hauser. Includes FYI Daily
9.30pm	**Carole King: Natural Woman** Profile of the singer-songwriter		
10.00pm	**10.25 Later... with Jools Holland** Jools brings together hot, legendary and undiscovered artists in this compilation of performances from recent series		
10.30pm			
11.00pm	**11.25 The Spice Girls at the BBC** A selection of performances by the group on BBC shows from over the years (To 12.25)	**11.15 Naked Attraction** With 23-year-old trans woman Callie from Glasgow and 24-year-old product design engineer Luca from Edinburgh (To 12.20)	**11.10 Family Guy** Meg has fun partying with Peter when he takes her to a college
11.30pm			**11.40 Family Guy** Three traditional fairy tales are retold, Quahog-style (To 12.10)

A-Z SATELLITE LISTINGS

ALIBI

Sky 109 Virgin 126

12noon Death in Paradise. **1.00** Father Brown. **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries. **4.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries. **5.00** Unforgettable. **6.00** Major Crimes. **7.00** Rizzoli & Isles. **8.00** Death in Paradise. **9.00** CSI: Vegas. **10.00** Death in Paradise. **11.00** Murdoch Mysteries.

ANIMAL PLANET

Virgin 251

12noon Tanked. **1.00** Pit Bulls & Parolees. **2.00** The Zoo. **4.00** My Cat from Hell. **5.00** Animal Cops Philadelphia. **6.00** Tanked. **7.00** Pit Bulls & Parolees. **8.00** Legends of the Wild. **10.00** Edge of Alaska. **11.00** Meet the Orangutans.

BBC ALBA

Sky 169 Virgin 161

6.00am Alba Today. **5.00pm** Treubh an Tuathanais. **5.15** Pip & Posy. **5.25** Sionnach agus Maigheach. **5.40** 'S E Iasg a Th'Annam. **5.45** AH-AH/No-No. **5.50** Stoiridh. **6.00** Aithne air Ainmhidhean. **6.25** A' Chuil. **6.30** @12. **6.35** Na Moomins/Moomin Valley. **7.00** An La. **7.25** Fraochy Bay. **7.25** Machair. **7.50** Dan. **8.00** Bonn Comhraidh. **8.30** Mach as mo Rathad/Born to Drive. **9.00** Teicheadh bho Loch Nis/Escape from Loch Ness. **9.50** Dealbh is Slighe. **10.00** Eilean Chanaigh. **11.00** Belladrum.

BBC THREE

Freeview 23 Sky 117

7.00pm Top Gear. **7.00** The Catch Up. **8.00** Squad Dates. **9.00** FILM: Avicii: True Stories. (2017) (15) **10.35** Some Girls.

BT SPORT 1

Sky 413 Virgin 527

10.30am Live AFL. **1.30pm** UEFA Europa League Highlights Show. **2.30** ESPN FC. **3.00** WWE NXT. **4.45** UEFA Europa League Highlights. **5.45** UEFA Champions League Review. **6.45** BT Sport Fight Night. **7.00** BT Sport Fight Night Live.

BT SPORT 2

Sky 414 Virgin 528

8.00am Live MotoGP. **3.00pm** Premier League — The Big Interview. **3.30** Premier League Stories. **4.00** Inside Serie A. **4.30** Hero CPL Highlights. **5.00** ESPN FC. **5.30** Ligue 1 Show. **6.00** Premier League Preview. **6.30** Currie Club. **7.00** Inside Serie A. **7.30** Live: Serie A. Salernitana v Lecce (Kick-off 7.45pm). **9.45** UEFA Champions League Magazine. **10.15** MotoGP: ICYMI. **10.30** Live: UFC Live. **11.00** WWE NXT Highlights.

BT SPORT 3

Sky 417 Virgin 529

8.30am Live: World Padel Tour. **2.30pm** Badminton Unlimited. **3.00** Live: World Padel Tour. **7.00** MotoGP: ICYMI. **7.15** UEFA Champions League Goals Reload. **7.30** Ligue 1 Show. **8.00** Live Ligue 1. Auxerre v Lorient (Kick-off 8pm). **10.00** UFC Fight Camp. **10.30** UEFA Champions League Review. **11.30** Badminton.

COMEDY CENTRAL

Sky 112 Virgin 181

11.00am Friends. **9.00pm** FILM: American Pie: Reunion. (2012) (15) **11.05** Ridiculousness.

DAVE (DAYTIME)

Freeview 19 Sky 111

12noon Bangers and Cash. **1.00** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers. **2.00** Top Gear USA Special. **3.00** Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul. **4.00** Top Gear. **5.00** Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul. **6.00** Taskmaster.

DISCOVERY

Sky 125 Virgin 250

9.00am The Last Alaskans. **10.00** Ice Lake Rebels. **11.00** Wheeler Dealers. **12noon** Supertruckers. **1.00** Gold Rush: Winter's Fortune. **2.00** Lone Star Law. **3.00** Homestead Rescue: Raney Ranch. **4.00** Alaska: The Last Frontier. **5.00** Wheeler Dealers. **6.00** Kindig Customs. **7.00** Junkyard Empire. **8.00** Gold Rush. **9.00** Expedition Unknown. **10.00** UFO Witness. **11.00** Yukon Men.

DRAMA (DAYTIME)

Freeview 20 Sky 143 Virgin 130

12noon The Bill. **1.00** Classic EastEnders. **2.20** Monarch of the Glen. **3.20** A Place to Call Home. **4.20** All Creatures Great and Small. **5.20** Waiting for God. **6.00** Are You Being Served? **6.40** 'Allo 'Allo!

E4 (DAYTIME)

Freeview 13 Sky 135 Virgin 106

12noon Brooklyn Nine-Nine. **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. **3.00** Young Sheldon. **4.00** Married at First Sight UK. **5.00** The Big Bang Theory.

EDEN

Sky 166 Virgin 245

12noon Forbidden History. **2.00** Emerald Islands of Malaysia. **3.00** Wild Edens. **5.00** Outback Vet. **6.00** The Zoo. **7.00** Forbidden History. **8.00** Outback Vet. **9.00** Wild Edens. **10.00** The Zoo. **11.00** Forbidden History.

EUROSPORT 1

Sky 410 Virgin 521

8.00am Roland-Garros. **9.30** Discovery Golf. **10.00** Cycling: Tour of Slovakia. **11.00** Cycling: Tour of Luxembourg. **12noon** Live Cycling: Coppa Sabatini. **1.00** Live Cycling: Tour of Luxembourg. **3.00** Live Cycling: Tour of Slovakia. **4.30** Cycling: Ras na mBan. **5.00** Triathlon PTO Tour: U.S. Open Preview. **6.00** Climbing World Cup. **7.00** Cycling: Tour of Luxembourg. **8.00** Cycling: Tour of Slovakia. **9.00** Sports Spotlight. **10.30** Wrestling: World Championships. **11.00** Speedway Grand Prix.

FILM4

Freeview 14 Sky 313 Virgin 428

11.00am THE COURT-MARTIAL OF BILLY MITCHELL. (1955) (U) **1.05pm** ESTHER WATERS. (1948) (PG) **3.15** GUNPOINT. (1966) (PG) **5.00** SANTA FE PASSAGE. (1955) (U) **6.50** JUNIOR. (1994) (PG) **9.00** INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL. (2008) (12) **11.20** LAST ACTION HERO. (1993) (PG) **1.55am** ENTERTAINMENT. (2015) (15)

5STAR (DAYTIME)

Freeview 32 Sky 128 Virgin 151

12noon Shoplifters & Scammers: At War with the Law. **1.00** Traffic Cops. **2.00** Police Interceptors. **5.00** Dogs with Extraordinary Friends. **6.00** Home and Away.

5 USA (DAYTIME)

Freeview 21 Sky 141 Virgin 153

10.00am NCIS. **12.55pm** Entertainment News. **1.00** Law & Order. **3.55** Entertainment News. **4.00** Law & Order. **5.55** Entertainment News. **6.00** NCIS.

FOOD NETWORK UK

Freeview 43 Sky 140 Virgin 285

6.00pm The Great British Bake Off. **8.00** The Hairy Bikers' Food Tour of Britain. **9.00** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. **10.00** Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook Melbourne. **11.00** Restaurant: Impossible.

GOLD

Sky 110 Virgin 124

11.55am Desmond's. **12.25pm** dinnerladies. **1.00** Dad's Army. **2.20** Keeping Up Appearances. **2.55** Last of the Summer Wine. **4.10** Dad's Army. **4.50** Open All Hours. **5.25** Keeping Up Appearances. **6.00** Hi-de-Hi! **6.40** Dad's Army. **8.00** Only Fools and Horses. **9.20** Bottom. **10.35** Only Fools and Horses. **11.55** All Round to Mrs Brown's.

GREAT! MOVIES

Freeview 34 Sky 321 Virgin 425

12.50pm GREAT! MOVIE NEWS EXTRA. **1.00** SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED. **1.55** GREAT! MOVIE NEWS. **2.01** SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED. **2.50** GREAT! MOVIE NEWS EXTRA. **3.00** RELUCTANT WITNESS. (2015) (PG) **4.45** GAMBIT. (1966) (U) **6.55** LAST VEGAS. (2013) (12) **9.00** AMERICAN GANGSTER. (2007) (18)

GREAT! MOVIES ACTION

Freeview 42 Sky 323 Virgin 426

11.00am STARSKY & HUTCH. **1.00pm** MEEK'S CUTOFF. (2010) (PG) **1.55** THIS WEEK BACK THEN. **2.01** MEEK'S CUTOFF. (2010) (PG) **3.10** STRANGER ON HORSEBACK. (1955) (U) **4.05** THIS WEEK BACK THEN. **4.11** STRANGER ON HORSEBACK. (1955) (U) **4.35** THE RAVAGERS. (1965) (PG) **5.30** THIS WEEK BACK THEN. **5.36** THE RAVAGERS. (1965) (PG) **6.20** BOMBERS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR. **7.15** STRANDED. (2001) (15) **9.00** BRAVEN. (2018) (15) **9.55** THIS WEEK BACK THEN. **10.01** BRAVEN. (2018) (15) **10.50** DISTURBING THE PEACE. (2020) (15) **11.45** THIS WEEK BACK THEN. **11.51** DISTURBING THE PEACE. (2020) (15)

GREAT! CHRISTMAS

Freeview 52 Sky 319 Virgin 424

10.00am The Nine Lives of Christmas. (2014) (PG) Includes GREAT! Movie News. **12noon** A Puppy for Christmas. (2016) (PG) Includes GREAT! Movie News. **2.00** A Dogwalker's Christmas Tale. (2015) Includes GREAT! Movie News. **4.00** Love for Christmas. (2012) (PG) Includes GREAT! Movie News. **6.00** The Christmas Shepherd. (2014) (PG) Includes GREAT! Movie News. **8.00** Santa's Summer House. (2012) (12) Includes GREAT! Movie News. **10.00** Christmas Do-Over. (2006) (PG) Includes GREAT! Movie News.

GREAT! TV

Freeview 50 Sky 157 Virgin 189

1.00pm Body of Proof. **2.00** Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye. **4.00** Murder, She Wrote. **6.00** Hart to Hart. **7.00** M*A*S*H. **9.00** Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased). **10.00** The Persuaders! **11.00** Classic Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?

ITV2 (DAYTIME)

Freeview 6 Sky 118 Virgin 115

11.00am Hart of Dixie. **12noon** Supermarket Sweep. **1.00** Family Fortunes. **2.00** The Masked Singer U.S.. **3.05** Veronica Mars. **4.00** One Tree Hill. **5.00** Hart of Dixie. **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase.

ITV3 (DAYTIME)

Freeview 10 Sky 119 Virgin 117

11.30am The Royal. Jack and Alun begin a crackpot scheme to raise chickens. **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale. **3.50** Classic Coronation Street. **6.00** Heartbeat. Lord Ashfordly's sister arrives in Aidensfield.

ITV4 (DAYTIME)

Freeview 26 Sky 120 Virgin 118

11.15am The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. **12.25pm** The Saint. **1.30** Match Time Revisited. **2.35** Magnum, PI. **3.35** The Sweeney. **4.40** Minder. **5.50** Dramatic Finishes. **6.00** World Series of Darts Finals.

ITVBE

Freeview 28 Sky 131 Virgin 119

9.00am LittleBe. **12noon** Best Cake Wins. **12.30** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills. **1.20** The Real Housewives of Jersey. **2.20** The Only Way Is Essex. **3.10** Million Dollar Listing: NYC. **4.05** The Real Housewives of Orange County. **5.00** The Real Housewives of Potomac. **6.00** Masters of Flip. **7.00** Buying and Selling. **8.00** Dinner Date. **9.00**

RADIO 4

FM: 92.4-94.6MHZ; LW: 198KHZ

5.30 **News Briefing. 5.43 Prayer for the Day. 5.45 Farming Today. 5.58 Tweet of the Day. 6.00 Today.**
9.00 **The Reunion.** Pioneers of professional women's football.
9.45 **(LW) Daily Service.**
9.45 **(FM) Book of the Week: A Visible Man.** By Edward Enninful.
10.00 **Woman's Hour.**
11.00 **The King in Wales.**
12.00 **(FM) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast.**
12.04 **The King in Wales.**
1.05 **The World at One.**
1.45 PICK **Reflections on Majesty.**
2.00 **The Archers.**
2.15 **Drama: Exemplar.**
2.45 **Living with the Gods.**
3.00 **Gardeners' Question Time.** Peter Gibbs and his panel of experts are at RHS Rosemoor.
3.45 **Short Works.** New series. Further Tests, by Naomi Paulus.
4.00 **Last Word.**
4.30 **The Digital Human.**
5.00 **PM; (LW) Shipping Forecast.**
5.57 **Weather.**
6.00 **Six O'Clock News.**
6.30 **The News Quiz.** New series. Andy Zaltzman hosts the topical comedy panel game.
7.00 **The Archers.** There's a shock at the opening of the new Gallery exhibition.
7.15 **Screenshot.** Mark Kermode and Ellen E. Jones present reports from the film world.
8.00 **Any Questions?** Victoria Derbyshire presents political debate from Broadcasting House.

PICK OF TODAY'S RADIO

REFLECTIONS ON MAJESTY, 1.45PM, 8.50PM, RADIO 4

THIS series hearing the thoughts of writers and academics on Queen Elizabeth II continues with a tribute from Michael Morpurgo. As he considers his great fondness for the late Queen, the former children's laureate notes how her steadfastness and unfailing sense of duty were passed down from her father, King George VI, who had led the nation through the dark days of the Second World War. At 8.50pm, it's the turn of Alan Bennett (pictured), who comments that the Queen's character made her 'a gift to an author', and praises her sense of humour — as well as that of her son, King Charles.

ITV 3

10

Heartbeat Sgt Merton finds himself under pressure when a group of teenagers plans a 'chicken run' with stolen cars

McDonald & Dodds Influencer Rose Boleyn checks into Bath's exclusive Ford & Flynn clinic for a nose job, but the routine procedure goes horribly wrong and she dies on the operating table. McDonald and Dodds must separate the fact from the fiction as they try to discover whether Rose's life was really as glamorous as it looked

Maigret After a suspected jewel thief is found murdered, the pipe-smoking detective investigates the residents of the dead man's apartment block. Drama, starring Michael Gambon as Georges Simenon's celebrated Parisian crime buster. Ciaran Madden also stars

11.45 Inspector Morse The Day of the Devil: A rapist escapes from prison (To 2.05)

ITV 4

26

6.00 World Series of Darts Finals Jacqui Oatley presents live coverage of day one from AFAS Live in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, featuring eight first-round matches, played over the best of 11 legs. Jonny Clayton was crowned champion here last year, and he is one of the eight seeded players who will take on tonight's winners. With analysis from Chris Mason and Alan Warriner-Little, commentary by Stuart Pyke and John Rawling, and interviews from Dan Dawson

All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling, featuring all of the biggest stars on the roster, including Adam Page, Chris Jericho, CM Punk and Jon Moxley (To 12.05)

MORE 4

18

6.55 Escape to the Chateau Before winter arrives, Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree take on their next project

Wondrous Wales A visit to the slopes of the Brecon Beacons, where hill farmer Garry Williams and his family's flock needs to be brought down from the mountains

Agatha Christie's Hjerson The search for the suspect intensifies when a shooting occurs

24 Hours in A&E A 19-year-old woman is brought in with possible spinal injuries after falling from a second-floor window

11.05 24 Hours in A&E A 40-year-old man is rushed in after losing control of his car, a 21-year-old woman has an infected cyst and a retired doctor is brought in (To 12.05)

PICK

36

Hawaii Five-0 McGarrett and the team race to save Chin Ho from execution after he is kidnapped by a drugs cartel

Magnum P.I. As a hurricane hits the Island, Thomas and his friends find shelter inside La Mariana, along with two armed killers also escaping the dangerous storm

Grimm A team of scientists come under deadly attack, prompting Nick, Hank and Wu to intervene

Nothing to Declare UK The work of customs officers in the south of England

Nothing to Declare UK The work of customs officers in the south of England

Nothing to Declare UK The work of customs officers in the south of England

Nothing to Declare UK The work of customs officers in England (To 12.00)

QUEST

12

Outback Opal Hunters The Geran Gang deal with an unwelcome visitor, and the Bishop works with a new partner

Salvage Hunters In Gloucestershire, Drew uncovers a marble table lamp and a painting of a mackerel. Later, he's thrilled to look around a stately home

Saving Lives at Sea A retiree is in danger after trying to rescue her dogs when they became cut off by the rising tide. A volunteer is washed off a cliff

Helicopter ER The team perform a risky procedure to save a cyclist who has been knocked off his bike, while a 19-year-old needs treatment for a gruesome leg injury

How Do They Do It? Stopping a car

How Do They Do It? Maintaining a bridge (To 12.00)

DAVE

19

Richard Osman's House of Games With Nish Kumar, Clara Amfo and Al Murray

7.40 Room 101 Sue Perkins, Bruno Tonioli and Steve Jones discuss their pet hates

8.20 Would I Lie to You? With David O'Doherty, Richard Osman, Susan Calman and Carol Kirkwood

QI XL Cariad Lloyd, Dermot O'Leary and Phill Jupitus compete alongside resident panellist Alan Davies, as Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the quiz show

QI With Professor Brian Cox, Rhys Darby and Jason Manford

10.40 Would I Lie to You? With Ruth Jones, Jack Dee and Peter Serafinowicz

11.20 Would I Lie to You? With Keeley Hawes, Stephen Mangan, Kevin Bridges and Professor Brian Cox (To 12.00)

DRAMA

20

7.20 Last of the Summer Wine Wesley is ready to unveil his latest creation

Father Brown The sleuthing priest must race to save Bunty from the hangman's noose when she is tried for murder

Detectorists First episode of the comedy, starring Mackenzie Crook

9.40 Detectorists A mole leaks information to a rival metal-detecting club

10.20 New Tricks A DNA sample from a teenager provides a link to the murder of an interpreter four years earlier, while Steve brings his dying father to London to stay in a hospice

11.40 Spooks A member of the team is framed (To 1.00)

5STAR

32

Caught on Camera: Funniest Moments Featuring clips of vicious kittens attack innocent bystanders. Plus, the latest stars of the week

Caught on Camera: Funniest Moments Collection of internet-sourced videos with a family-friendly hook, featuring some dating dos and don'ts and kitchen nightmares

Elysium (2013,15) A man living in poverty on a ruined Earth fights to gain access to a space station inhabited by a wealthy elite. Sci-fi thriller, starring Matt Damon and Jodie Foster. Includes Entertainment News

11.10 Hellboy (2019,15) Fantasy, starring David Harbour and Milla Jovovich (To 1.30)

5 USA

21

NCIS The team investigate the deaths of a radio DJ and a naval officer who were both killed during a live broadcast, and discovers a number of potential suspects

NCIS Abby becomes involved in the case of a murdered naval scientist and makes a breakthrough when she decodes some of the markings covering the body

Private Eyes Shade and Angie are called in to investigate as a Mexican telenovela is plagued with near-fatal accidents targeting the actors

Law & Order: Special Victims Unit An investment banker is found dead and suspicion falls on his boyfriend, a professional American football player

Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Benson and Stabler are drawn into a series of games

11.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Chief Garland is conflicted (To 12.55)

Botched. **10.00** Love Island USA. **11.30** Botched. **12.30am** Tanya's Extreme Therapies.

MORE4 (DAYTIME)

Freeview 18 Sky 136 Virgin 147

11.05am Find It, Fix It, Flog It. **1.10pm** Heir Hunters. **2.10** Four in a Bed. **4.50** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. **5.55** Car S.O.S. **6.55** Escape to the Chateau.

NAT'L GEOGRAPHIC

Sky 129 Virgin 266

12noon Plane Wreck: Draining the Ocean. **1.00** Ultimate Airport Dubai. **2.00** Air Crash Investigation. **4.00** Ice Road Rescue: Highway Havoc. **5.00** Car S.O.S. **6.00** Inside Turkish Airlines. **7.00** Air Crash Investigation. **8.00** 9/11: One Day In America. **10.30** Hitler's Last Secrets. **11.00** Air Crash Investigation.

PBS AMERICA

Freeview 84 Sky 174 Virgin 273

12noon Nazi Hunters. **1.00** The Last Voices of World War One. **2.00** Riveted: The History of Jeans. **3.10** The Silk Road. **4.25** The Last Voices of World War One. **5.25** Nazi Hunters. **6.20** Riveted: The History of Jeans. **7.30** The Silk Road. **8.50** The Last Voices of World War One. **9.50** Nazi Hunters. **10.45** The Silk Road.

PICK (DAYTIME)

Freeview 36 Sky 159 Virgin 156

12noon Road Wars. **1.00** Border Patrol. **2.00** Nothing to Declare. **4.00** Stargate SG-1. **5.00** Star Trek: Enterprise. **6.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine.

QUEST (DAYTIME)

Freeview 12 Sky 144

12noon Scrap Kings. **1.00** Money for Nothing. **2.00** The Repair Shop. **3.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. **4.00** Salvage Hunters. **5.00** Salvage Hunters: The Restorers. **6.00** Wheeler Dealers.

REALLY

Freeview 17 Sky 142 Virgin 128

12noon Money for Nothing. **1.00** The Hotel Inspector. **2.00** Animal Cops Houston. **4.00** Dr Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet. **5.00** Ambulance. **6.00** Money for Nothing. **7.00** Antiques Road Trip. **9.00** Ghost Adventures: Up Close & Personal. **10.00** Ghost Hunters. **11.00** Ghost Adventures.

SKY ARTS

Freeview 11 Sky 130 Virgin 165

12noon I, Claude Monet. **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected. **1.30** Sky Arts Book Club. **2.30** Portrait Artist of the Year 2014. **4.00** Discovering: Richard Harris. **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected. **6.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents. **7.00** Classic Albums. **8.00** Discovering: The Beach Boys. **8.30** Brian Wilson Plays Baloise Session. **10.30** Berlin Live: Blondie. **11.50** The Ronnie Wood Show.

SKY ATLANTIC

Sky 108

12.15pm Ray Donovan. **2.25** Game of Thrones. **3.30** Boardwalk Empire. **5.45** The Sopranos. **7.55** Game of Thrones. **9.00** Munich Games. **10.00** House of the Dragon. **11.05** We Own This City.

SKY COMEDY

Sky 114 Virgin 135

10.25am Curb Your Enthusiasm. **12.45pm** Los Espookys. **2.30** The Office (US). **3.00** Will & Grace. **4.00** Modern Family. **5.00** The Office (US). **5.30** Futurama. **6.30** Everybody Hates Chris. **7.30** The Office (US). **9.00** Girls. **10.00** Late Late Show Best of the Week. **11.00** The Rehearsal. **11.35** The Late Late Show with James Corden.

SKY DOCUMENTARIES

Sky 121 Virgin 278

12noon FILM: Well Groomed. (2019) (PG) **1.40** My Icon: Steve Brown. **2.00** FILM: Dave Not Coming Back. (2020) (PG) **4.00** The Directors. **5.00** Discovering: Gene Wilder. **6.00** The 2000s. **6.50** Allen v. Farrow. **8.00** The Vietnam War. **9.00** Richard Pryor: Omit the Logic. **10.40** FILM: Lennox: The Untold Story. (2020) (15)

SKY DRAMA

Sky 310 Virgin 410

11.25am BAD SANTA. (2003) (15) 1.10pm JINGLE ALL THE WAY. (1996) (PG) 2.45 MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET. (1947) (U) 4.25 HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS. (2000) (PG) 6.15 BAD SANTA. (2003) (15) 8.00 JINGLE ALL THE WAY. (1996) (PG) 9.35 MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET. (1973) (U) 11.20 MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET. (1994) (U)

SKY HISTORY

Sky 123 Virgin 270

9.00am Pawn Stars. **10.00** Forged in Fire. **11.00** Pawn Stars. **12noon** American Pickers. **1.00** Weird or What? with William Shatner. **2.00** Highway Thru Hell. **3.00** Pawn Stars. **4.00** History's Greatest Mysteries. **5.30** Vintage Tech Hunters. **6.00** American Pickers. **7.00** Forged in Fire. **8.00** Storage Wars. **9.00** The American Presidency with Bill Clinton. **10.00** Shipwrecks: When History Resurfaces. **11.00** The UnXplained with William Shatner.

SKY MAX

Sky 113 Virgin 121

11.00am NCIS: New Orleans. **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0. **2.00** MacGyver. **3.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow. **4.00** The Flash. **5.00** Supergirl. **6.00** Stargate SG-1. **8.00** Freddie Fries Again. **9.00** Rob & Romesh vs NBA Basketball. **10.00** A League of Their Own. **11.00** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. **11.45** Banshee.

SKY PREMIERE

Sky 301 Virgin 401

11.40am MURDER AT YELLOWSTONE CITY. (2022) (15) 2.00pm AMERICAN CARNAGE. (2022) (15) 3.55 SING 2. (2021) (U) 6.00 LAST LOOKS. (2021) (15) 8.00 MARRY ME. (2022) (12) 10.00 SCREAM. (2022) (18)

SKY SCI-FI

Sky 152 Virgin 139

11.00am Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. **12noon** Star Trek: Enterprise. **2.00** Futurama. **3.00** Fringe. **4.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. **5.00** Stargate SG-1. **6.00** Star Trek: Enterprise. **8.00** Manifest. **9.00** The Leftovers. **11.05** Salem's Lot.

SKY WITNESS

Sky 107 Virgin 112

12noon 9-1-1. **1.00** FBI. **2.00** Blue Bloods. **3.00** The Equalizer. **4.00** Paramedics Australia. **5.00** Nothing to Declare. **8.00** Blue Bloods. **9.00** FBI: Most Wanted. **10.00** Blue Bloods. **11.00** The Equalizer.

SKY MAIN EVENT

Sky 401 Virgin 511

12noon Total Football. **12.30** Live DP World Tour Golf. **5.30** Live PGA Tour Golf. **7.30** Live FNF. Aston Villa v Southampton (Kick-off 8pm). **10.30** Live LPGA Tour Golf. **11.00** Live PGA Tour Golf.

SKY PREMIER LEAGUE

Sky 402 Virgin 512

12noon Total Football. **12.30** Total Football. **1.00** Total Football. **2.00** Total Football. **3.00** Total Football. **4.00** Total Football. **5.00** Premier League 100 Club. **6.00** Premier League – The Big Interview. **6.30** Inside The WSL: Beth Mead Special. **7.00** Premier League Preview. **7.30** Live FNF. Aston Villa v Southampton (Kick-off 8pm). **10.30** Premier League Highlights. **11.00** Premier League Stories. **11.30** Premier League – The Big Interview.

SKY FOOTBALL

Sky 403 Virgin 513

12noon Bundesliga Weekly. **12.30** Best Moments From The Championship Play-Off Final (1993-2019). **1.00** SPFL Highlights. **1.45** EFL Highlights. **3.00** EFL Goals: Leagues 1 & 2. **3.30** EFL Highlights. **4.30** Bundesliga Weekly. **5.00** Inside The WSL: Beth Mead Special. **5.30** EFL Highlights. **6.30** Bundesliga Weekly. **7.00** EFL Highlights. **7.15** MLS. **7.20** Live Bundesliga. **9.30** Inside The WSL: Beth Mead Special. **10.00** Lionesses Special: Their Story. **11.00** EFL Greatest Games.

SKY CRICKET

Sky 404 Virgin 514

10.45am Women's International T20 Cricket. **2.45pm** Women's World T20 Classics. **3.00** Women's International T20 Cricket. **10.45** Best of England v South Africa. **11.30** Shaun Pollock: Bowling Masterclass.

SKY MIX

Sky 416 Virgin 520

8.30am DP World Tour Golf. **9.30** PGA Tour Golf. **12.30pm** Sail GP. **1.00** Show Jumping. **2.00** Fighting Fit 2020. **3.30** Spirit of Yachting. **4.00** Sail GP. **4.30** Inside The WSL: Beth Mead Special. **5.00** WNBA. **6.45** My Icon: Kate And Helen Richardson-Walsh. **7.00** NFL Highlights. **8.00** Live LPGA Tour Golf. **11.00** The Rugby Championship.

SMITHSONIAN

Freeview 57 Sky 171 Virgin 276

10.00am Combat Ships. **1.00pm** The Hunt for Escobar's Hippos. **2.00** Miami Wild. **3.00** Aerial America. **4.00** How Did They Build That? **6.00** Ice Airport Alaska. **7.00** Aerial Britain. **8.00** Tomb Hunters. **10.00** Siege of Masada. **11.00** Tomb Hunters.

TALKING PICTURES TV

Freeview 82 Sky 328 Virgin 445

11.50am FILM: Doctor in Love. (1960) (PG) **1.50pm** FILM: The Anniversary. (1968) (PG) **3.40** The New Light Orchestras of Radio in 1939: Glimpses. **3.55** FILM: Wanted for Murder. (1946) (PG) **6.00** FILM: The Day the Earth Caught Fire. (1961) (PG) **8.00** The Outer Limits. **9.00** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro. **9.05** FILM: Night of the Living Dead. (1968) (15) **11.00** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro. **11.05** FILM: Happy Birthday To Me. (1981) (15)

TCM

Sky 315 Virgin 415

8.25am CHEYENNE. 9.25 THE SPY WITH MY FACE. (1966) (PG) 11.15 CHEYENNE. 1.30pm THE SPY IN THE GREEN HAT. (1966) (U) 3.25 KING OF THE WILD STALLIONS. (1959) (U) 5.05 MURDER AT THE GALLOP. (1963) (U) 6.50 THE LAST HUNT. (1956) (PG) 9.00 THE MAN FROM UNCLE. (2015) (12) 11.25 GET CARTER. (1971) (18) 1.45am MYSTERY SUBMARINE. (1950) (U)

W

Sky 132 Virgin 125

11.00am Inside the Ambulance: Coast and Country. **2.00pm** Tipping Point. **4.00** My Dream Home. **5.00** Property Brothers: Forever Homes. **7.00** MasterChef Australia. **8.30** 999 Rescue Squad. **9.30** Inside the Ambulance. **10.00** The Catherine Tate Show. **11.50** Nurses on the Ward.

YESTERDAY

Freeview 27 Sky 155 Virgin 129

12noon The Architecture the Railways Built. **1.00** Bangers and Cash. **2.00** Abandoned Engineering. **4.00** War Factories. **5.00** The World at War. **6.00** The Architecture the Railways Built. **7.00** Abandoned Engineering. **8.00** Hornby: A Model World. **9.00** Steam Train Britain. **10.00** Bangers and Cash. **11.00** Abandoned Engineering.

■ THE soprano Lesley Garrett chooses her friend George Lascelles, the 7th Earl of Harewood, as her nomination for inclusion in **GREAT LIVES (11PM, RADIO 4)**. A first cousin of the late Queen Elizabeth II, the Earl served in the Grenadier Guards and was a prisoner of war, before going on to devote his life to his twin passions of music and sport, serving as both Director of The Royal Opera House and President of Leeds United Football Club.

8.50 PICK **Reflections on Majesty.**
9.00 Spitfire: From the Ashes. A look at the story of how the fighter plane was manufactured after the factory making them was destroyed.
9.59 Weather.
10.00 The World Tonight. News round-up, with James Coomarasamy.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Maid. By Nita Prose.
11.00 PICK **Great Lives.**
11.30 The Digital Human. How the internet strayed so far from its original purpose.
12.00 News and Weather. 12.30 Book of the Week: A Visible Man. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As BBC World Service.

RADIO 2 FM: 88-90.2MHZ

6.30 Zoe Ball. **9.30** Ken Bruce. **12.00** Jeremy Vine. **2.00** Steve Wright. **5.00** Sara Cox. **7.00** Michelle Visage. **9.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony. **12.00** Her Majesty's Music. **1.00** Radio 2 Unwinds with Angela Griffin.

RADIO 3 FM: 90.2-92.4MHZ

6.30 Breakfast. **9.00** Essential Classics. **12.00** Composer of the Week: Bruckner. **1.00** Lunchtime Concert. **2.00** Afternoon Concert. **4.30** The Listening Service. **5.00** In Tune. **7.00** In Tune Mixtape. **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert. Works by Stravinsky and Boulanger. **10.00** The Verb. **10.45** The Essay: Sign Language Is My Language. **11.00** Late Junction. **1.00** Piano Flow with Lianne La Havas.

RADIO 5 LIVE MW: 693/909KHZ

5.00 The Big Green Money Show. **5.30** Wake Up to Money. **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast. **9.00** Nicky Campbell. **11.00** Chiles on Friday. **2.00** Elis James and John Robins. **4.00** 5 Live Drive. **7.00** 5 Live Sport: The Friday Football Social. **9.00** Rugby League. **10.00** Stephen Nolan. **1.00** Laura McGhie.

OSCAR CAINER

THE late, great Peter Falk, who was born on this day, starred as the TV detective Columbo. Famously, he always left a suspect feeling as if they'd got the better of him. Then he'd say 'just one more thing…' and that 'thing' would be the fact that solved the crime. As retrograde Mercury opposes Jupiter this weekend, it's doing a cosmic Columbo impression. It reveals a clue that helps us to make crucial decisions.

ARIES Mar 21 - Apr 20 **JUST because relationships can be tough, doesn't mean we don't need them. In fact, it seems that the more a personal relationship challenges us, the more significant its effect on our life. Surely part of the reason we're here on planet Earth is to learn from one another? And learning curves are sometimes steep. As Mercury aligns with Jupiter this weekend, a stressful situation can be turned around. If you instigate a clear conversation about a contentious issue, you'll uncover a shared point of interest.** *Capture the powerful energy of next week's Equinox. Call your in-depth, four-minute forecast: 0906 751 5601.*

TAURUS Apr 21 - May 21 THERE are several ways of interpreting the news you're receiving. You can see yourself as very lucky and clever. Or as a bit unlucky and silly. Since you're so entangled in this situation, it's hard to stand back and assess. This weekend, as retrograde Mercury links with Jupiter, you can find ways to put off making any decisions. Let things settle. Don't allow yourself to assume praise, compliments, guilt or blame. But stay hopeful. It looks very much as if you'll soon have reason to be pleased with how things turn out. *The coming Equinox brings potential for powerful positive change. There's great news in your forecast. Call 0906 751 5602.*

GEMINI May 22 - June 22 **WHEN political leaders are asked about their policies and priorities, they're never keen on giving specific answers. Like us, they don't want to commit to something they won't be able to deliver. Or maybe, since a clear reply might alienate some of their supporters, they prefer to hedge their bets. Instead, they try to convince everyone that they know what they're doing and that we can trust them to make the right decisions. That's a good example to follow. All that matters is that you believe in yourself.** *It's nearly the Equinox. Let it guide you to the future you're longing for. Call 0906 751 5603.*

CANCER June 23 - July 23 DON'T say anything to rock the boat. Just do what you're told. Be compliant. Agree. Surrender. Why are you being so contrary? Surely you know that the instructions you're being given are in your best interests? Can't you just mellow and accept what's being demanded of you? You might think I'm joking, but someone really does know what they're talking about! This weekend, if you're modest and humble enough to swallow your pride, and do what they say, you'll make progress towards the successful outcome of a dream. *How will the Equinox transform your life? There's good news in your forecast. Call 0906 751 5604.*

LEO July 24 - Aug 23 **LIFE would be much simpler if we could clone ourselves. We could stay snuggled up on the sofa while our clone does a swift 5K run. It could take our place in front of the computer for Zoom meetings and run our errands for us, while we take the credit. On the downside, would we be so conscientious about keeping the law if our clone could take our punishment? And there might be a bit of confusion about which was the real you. This weekend, it's important to follow your heart. Remember to be yourself.** *Let the transformational power of the Equinox inspire you. Call your latest four-minute forecast: 0906 751 5605.*

VIRGO Aug 24 - Sep 23 'BACKWARD compatibility' is a concept familiar to anyone involved with computer design. It's the term used to describe the process of ensuring that the latest programs and software are able to interface with older systems. Since there's a constant stream of new products, it's a never-ending process. With your retrograde ruler Mercury linking with Jupiter this weekend, don't fall into the trap of being 'backward compatible'. Keep focusing on the future. Instead, use the energy to cement innovative aspirations. *Use the power of the Equinox to change your life. For the key to the future of your dreams, call 0906 751 5606.*

LIBRA Sep 24 - Oct 23 **NOT a single expert on planet Earth is 100 per cent right 100 per cent of the time. No matter their skillset, sometimes they'll get something wrong. That's what sets humans apart from machines. And it's that dash of unpredictability that leads to innovative discoveries. Making mistakes is natural and healthy. We should celebrate our errors. You've been wrong in the past. And if you're wrong about something now, it was for a good reason. Be confident this weekend. You're going to get it right.** *The coming Equinox can change your life for the better. There's valuable news when you call 0906 751 5607.*

SCORPIO Oct 24 - Nov 22 A BIT like a dog with a sore paw, you're feeling slightly fragile. You've been involved in a tricky situation, which forced you to defend yourself. The only comfort is that you gave as good as you got. But that's not enough to dampen the growing worry that you're not as right as you thought you were. Do you need to say sorry? Were you barking up the wrong tree? With retrograde Mercury and Jupiter aligning, the weekend brings a chance to reassess and make peace with yourself (and anyone else). *Maximise the energy available to you now. The coming Equinox can transform your world. Call 0906 751 5608.*

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23 - Dec 21 **THE thing with the stories we tell ourselves is that they're seductive. We're so good at convincing ourselves that things happen in a certain way, that if anyone dares to tell us otherwise, we get cross. As long as our narrative helps us make smart decisions, it isn't necessarily a problem. But sometimes, the illusion's so attractive that we find ourselves up the garden path: the version we're telling ourselves stops us seeing the reality of where we really are. A new event opens your eyes.** *Next week's exceptional Equinox brings potential for transformation. Call 0906 751 5609.*

CAPRICORN Dec 22 - Jan 20 SOME days I record astrology forecasts on video. Now we're all pretty adept at positioning ourselves in front of cameras and pressing the right buttons. The tricky bit is working out what you'll look like when the camera rolls. Recently, I put mine on a tripod, moved to see what I looked like, and was no longer in shot! Some things are easier when someone else is involved. This weekend, help is at hand. Don't be ashamed (or embarrassed) to ask for assistance. Being part of a team, however small, is fun. *Give yourself the best pre-Equinox present: four minutes of priceless insight and support. Call 0906 751 5610.*

AQUARIUS Jan 21 - Feb 19 **THE sound of an old clock ticking can have a calming effect. The steadiness of the 'tick tock' reminds us to slow down (rather than speed up). Maybe, if we reintroduced them into our homes, our lives would be less frenetic! Life is too short to hurry through. If we lived forever, we could afford to spend some time caught up in worry and tension. But since time is limited, we need to do our best to savour every second. No matter the pressures you're under, try to stay calm, this weekend.** *Wonderful opportunities arise as the Equinox prepares to energise your life. For great news call 0906 751 5611.*

PISCES Feb 20 - Mar 20 DO PIRATES still bury treasure and leave maps with directions on how to find it? I find it hard to imagine even legends like Blackbeard and Long John Silver going to such lengths. It's easier to picture them partying the loot away! Fortunately, you don't need a physical map to find the treasure you're seeking. You can find a deep sense of happiness and joy — the inner equivalent of a bright diamond, this weekend. With your traditional ruler Jupiter linking to Mercury, if you share how you are feeling, a relationship can deepen. *The Equinox will bring powerful positive change. There's great news in your forecast. Call 0906 751 5612.*

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A jamboree bag of the good old times

Was it that bad, our
council house?
Playing football in the street.
Chalking hopscotch on
the pavement
With plimsolls on our feet.

The open fire that warmed us,
Lino on the floor.
Clothes that came from
jumble sales,
An unlocked kitchen door.

When we went to sleep
at night
With frost inside the glass,
A water bottle warmed us —
Although it wouldn't last!

Our bikes, our
prized possession,
Made from bits and bobs.
Keeping watchful eyes out
For roaming gangs of dogs.

Cubs and Guides and
Bob-a-Job
Local fetes and
church bazaars.
Some dads on
weekend mornings
Working on their cars.

Cigarette cards and marbles,
Saturday morning flicks.
Pea soup foggy mornings,
Pushing hula hoops with sticks.

A local copper on the beat
We even knew his name.
When mischief came upon him
He knew which kid to blame.

The sirens that still sounded
A memory of the past.
Go-karts made with
pram wheels
Pushed by mates to make
them fast.

Coal men with their
open trucks
Counting sacks they carried in.
The rumble as they poured
them out,

Into the shed or concrete bin.

Jamboree bags, penny sweets,
Pocket money, too.
Friday nights with fish and chips
That freezing outside loo!

Paraffin delivered
For heaters in the hall.
Radios on sideboards
A chained mirror on the wall.

Alleyways with hide and seek,
War games in the fields.
Bamboo bows and arrows
Dustbin lids used as shields.

Summers spent on
roller skates
Or playing football in the park.
Running back for tea-time
Before it got too dark.

Sunday dads down at the pub,
Mothers cooking roast.
The bath time in the evening
Tea of jam on toast.

A pure and happy age gone by
With memories held so dear.
Walking streets around us
With no worries or no fear.

Rope swings, building bonfires,
A penny for the guy,
Jumping jacks and bangers,
Potatoes in the fire.

Paper chains at Christmas
Cherry brandy, Babycham.
Coin meters for electric —
Don't forget the tally man.

British bulldog on the
playground
Our mum's friend we
called aunt,
Corgi cars and Dinky toys
That exotic rubber plant.

Park slides, roundabouts,
witches' hats
Bumping on the swings,
The Beano and the Dandy
Ordinary things.

Thunderbirds and Tufty Club
Knock down ginger, too,
Catapults and home-made stilts
That advert Esso Blue.

Party lines on telephones,
Scrumping people's fruit,
Picture rails in living rooms,
Catching frogs and newts.

Camps built in the nearby field,
Carpet runners on the stairs,
Mum in and out of every shop
To save a penny here and there.

Corona pop and Mikki milk,
Laces on the ball,
Washing lines with
concrete paths
Flying ducks up on the wall.

What happened to those
good times?
Where did they all go?
Memories I still treasure.
I miss them don't you know!

The memories seem so endless
There are so many more
I'm sure,
I hope I've covered most
of them
When we lived in times so pure.

Pete Dean,
West Drayton, Middlesex.

Out Of The Mouths Of Babes

OUR great granddaughter Darcey, almost three, was in the living room and her parents were in the adjoining kitchen within earshot. Calling me over, she said something in a very quiet voice that I didn't hear. I asked her to repeat it, which she did, but I still didn't catch what she was saying. 'Just a minute,' said Darcey, who then walked over to the doorway, shut the safety gate and then said in a loud voice: 'HAVE YOU GOT ANY SWEETIES?'

Sheila Phillips,
Ulverston, Cumbria.

Picture that!

GRIN WIN: *This fruity breakfast brought a smile to my face.*
Roger Cazemage, Twickenham, Middlesex.

Wordy Wise

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING TOLD — when your wife tells you off.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLDE — when you remember The Good Olde Days on TV.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING COLD — when you keep shivering and saying 'brrr'.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING GOLD — when grandad bequeaths you sovereigns.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING SOLD — when someone is convincing you.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING BOLD — when she says: 'Oi! Keep your hands to yourself.'

Antony Dean,
Keighley, W. Yorks.

Sign language

YOU'VE BEEN WARNED: *Seen on Aberystwyth Pier by Jacqueline Fitzsimmons of Liverpool.*

■ SEND your contributions to Peterborough, Daily Mail Letters, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT

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The British spirit

THE Queen was stoic and reliably got on with the job. It's a quality intrinsic in the British character and is why so many of us related to and adored her.

In the true spirit of Britishness — and as protocol and tradition dictates — we had a new monarch immediately. We are grateful for the continuity, but are still in mourning.

Goodness knows how King Charles III must feel. We are reflecting on all the Queen represented, the example she set and her resolve even in the most testing circumstances. Meanwhile, alongside his grief, Charles is fulfilling the duties of monarch.

We carry on with life and if possible visit a royal palace to lay flowers. We go to work and school, keep calm and carry on. Or do we?

Perhaps we're not so stoic after all. Football matches have been called off and on the day of the Queen's funeral, GP appointments will be cancelled and supermarkets will shut their doors. It's a strange way to show respect to the most reliable, unfussy and dutiful Queen.

HARRIET GOULD,
Gamlingay, Cambs.

Stiff upper lip

WELL done all the shops that will close on Monday to mark the Queen's funeral. It's the right call on such a momentous occasion.

C. HAMMANS, Laindon, Essex.

I SERVED for 34 years in the Queen's service and have always had great respect for her.

Why do people think she would wish the whole country to come to a standstill because of her death? Let's be British, demonstrate a stiff upper lip and carry on with life.

PHILIP LEE, Liskeard, Cornwall.

Paying last respects

I WAS born on the day Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip married, so her long reign was always part of my life. I regret that due to the long queue and my need for medication, I am not able to pay my last respects at the Lying in State.

I am proud that members of my family are police officers on duty for long shifts in London throughout the mourning period.

LINDA KENDALL, Rayleigh, Essex.

Final journey

LIKE Peter Hitchens, I wish the route of the cortege from Balmoral to Windsor had considered the many thousands of citizens who live outside Scotland and London.

Other than on TV, we have missed the moving sight of the last journey of our Queen. It could have been routed by train through our great cities of York, Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, Birmingham and Cardiff.

Those wishing to pay their respects would have been able to stand on platforms and bridges.

If the journey had been made by road, the cortege could have stopped for overnight vigils in cathedrals. The Queen's subjects who live in Northern cities and rural areas feel we have been ignored and forgotten.

BARRIE HAMILTON, Swindon, Wilts.

Straight to the POINT

■ **I SHALL always think of the Queen as Elizabeth The Unifier.**
ELSA GREAVES, Sheffield.

■ **FAREWELL to Elizabeth The Most Cherished.**
EVELYN ROXBURGH, Braintree, Essex.

■ **IT'S time to acknowledge the Princess of Wales, Duchess of Cambridge and Cornwall, as Catherine and not Kate.**
BARBARA JOWETT, Leeds, W. Yorks.

■ **NICOLA STURGEON and the SNP must be seething. The death of the Queen at Balmoral has unleashed a wave of Scottish patriotism for the monarchy and the UK.**
GERRY LESTER, Stone, Staffs.

A right to protest

IF SOME people want to wave banners criticising King Charles or publicly make snide remarks about the late Queen, then let them. It doesn't exactly improve the image of the protesters.

Not everyone supports the monarchy, but surely even anti-royalists can see that the reaction to the Queen's death reflects a country at ease with the Royal Family.

If republicans want to win us over to their cause then the sensible thing to do would be to stop belittling the monarchy and patiently explain what new benefits a republic could bring to a country that is already a democracy. Prove to us that life would be better if we had a president.

Many would agree that having a hereditary head of state is archaic, but logic is not the most important factor in our system of governance.

The Romans brought our ancestors straight roads and decimalisation yet as soon as they left we reverted to complicated imperial measures and winding country lanes.

EMILIE McRAE, Trowbridge, Wilts.

WITH all the bleating about the right to free speech by those who have behaved disgracefully during this mourning period, an important thing seems to have been forgotten.

The one person who could never express her political opinion was the Queen. How ironic.

RICHARD A. BULLOCH,
Holmfirth, W. Yorks.

Only human

GIVE King Charles III a break after his ill-tempered behaviour over a leaky pen. He has lost his mother

Extraordinary

MY BROTHER COLIN
by Brian Sword

COLIN was my older brother by just 14 months. We grew up in the former mining town of Ashington in Northumberland, where boys wanted to follow in the footsteps of famous sons the footballers Jackie Milburn, and Jack and Bobby Charlton. However, Colin's eyes were trained firmly skywards. His true calling came when he joined the Air Training Corps at the age of 13. By 16, he had learned to fly a glider solo and at 17 was awarded a flying scholarship at Carlisle Airport. He became a staff cadet and instructor with 641 Gliding School at the former RAF Ouston until its closure in 1974. As a civilian instructor and member of various gliding clubs, he progressed up the coaching ladder to become chief flying instructor at Northumbria Gliding Club and Borders (Milfield) Gliding Club. He was chairman of the instructor and examining committee of the British Gliding Association and served as a regional examiner for the North of

I'm proud to cry out: 'God save the King!'

OYEZ! Oyez! Oyez! For those who question why do we have royalty and not a republic, remember that in our constitutional monarchy, a king or queen does not rule, they reign.
And whether at a state occasion or an informal walkabout, part of their duty is to act as our nation's foremost ceremonial representative.
The Queen had golden ticket box-office appeal. Behind her warm smile, she was inscrutable, not cynical and non-tribal. Politicians might take note that when she made a promise, she kept it.
I am a former soldier who served for 22 years. The Queen, a remarkable woman and grafter, served for 70 long years and, whether in dainty town or country footwear, didn't put a foot wrong.
While the duty and service the Queen gave is deserving of great recognition, she earned something far more important, worthy and more lasting than adornments or titles: the love and respect of not just her people, but the whole world.
For the past 25 years in my role as a town crier, countless times at the end of my announcements I have declared: 'God save the Queen.'
The first time I heard 'The Queen is dead, long live the King' it sounded so blunt and brutal.
No more will we see her famous wave as we salute or applaud her. But life moves on inexorably and we are now living in the Carolean era. I am equally proud to cry out: 'God save the King.'

MICHAEL WOOD, Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire.

Honour: Town crier Michael Wood

I'D LIKE to answer the man who shouted 'Who elected him?' at a proclamation ceremony for King Charles III. The answer is no one, thank goodness. The truth about elections is that whether it be a statesman, politician or the captain of a darts team, the winner can never be everything to everyone. They can only please those who voted for them and then not always.
The Queen was the mother of our island nations, whether we were born here or came to live here, rich or poor, high or low. She served every last one of us with a combination of impartiality and deep affection. She was known for her Christian values of love and duty. How many statesman could honestly claim to have these qualities?
Our new King has been taught by the best and much desires to become the father of our nation. I give him my full blessing. If you believe in democracy then you will accept the will of the majority. This week's displays of commiserations and approval suggest that a King has been 'elected'.

S. M. WINSLADE-RAFTER, London S17.

and is grieving, but has to endure all the travel, pomp and circumstance.

It's no wonder Charles couldn't remember the date and was irritated over a malfunctioning pen. After all, he is human. Even royalty have their moments.

JOANN LEE FRANK, Clearwater, Florida.

WHILE appreciating the stress and strain he is under, King Charles' reaction to a badly placed pen box and leaky pen in Northern Ireland show us that he can be intolerant.

I can't recall the Queen ever acting in such a way.

If Charles is to win over the public, he will have to show more patience over trivial issues. Let's hope that when something meaningful occurs he handles it better.

DAVE BURNS, Newcastle upon Tyne.

KING Charles didn't get off to a good start by whinging about a pen. He should ask himself: 'What would Mummy do?' The answer is put up and shut up.

MARIAN PARSLOW, Norwich.

COULD someone please gift Charles a Biro?

HELEN GRIFFITHS, Hook, Hants.

Politics paralysed

YES, the country is in mourning for a much-loved Queen who devoted her life to serving us all. But meanwhile none of the nation's huge crises are being dealt with. Politics has been in paralysis for months and the new Government has not yet started work.

All of the party conferences should be cancelled so MPs can get back to work. Shops, manufacturing and small businesses still have not been told what help they will be given towards the huge energy bills they are facing.

VALERIE GIBSON, address supplied.

Petty ban

HOW small-minded of football governing body UEFA to turn down requests from Chelsea, Manchester City and Rangers to play the National Anthem before their home European matches this week.

I am glad Rangers ignored this petty edict and played God Save The King over the PA after a respectful one-minute silence. It was worth any peevish fine.

CHRIS SHARP, Leeds.

UEFA now realises what happens if it tells us we can't do something…

R. J. PICKERING, Leicester.

THE Premier League is worried about a fixture pile-up following cancellations as a mark of respect after the death of the Queen.

There's an obvious answer: extend the season into mid-June 2023 and postpone the three Cup Finals for a week.

ROBERT JAMES, St Albans, Herts.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

THIS week's winner is A. Wills, of Ruislip, Middlesex, who praised King Charles III for his lifelong commitment to the environment. He wins our Letter Of The Week Magic Mug, courtesy of Printer Pix. These reveal our Daily Mail Letter Of The Week design when hot. For personalised photo gifts (right), visit printerpix.co.uk. The Letter Of The Week is announced on Friday. Write to: Daily Mail, Letters, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT or email letters@dailymail.co.uk, including your address and phone number.

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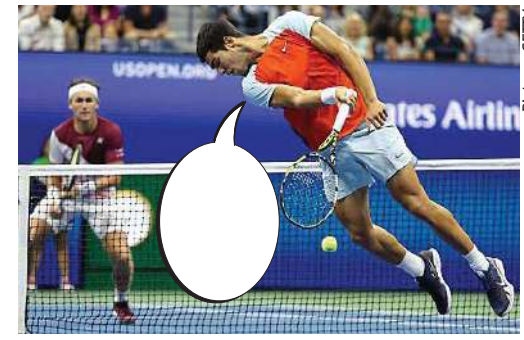

Picture: GETTY

WHAT is Carlos Alcaraz saying as he beats Casper Ruud to win the U.S. Open men's singles title at the age of 19? Our weekly picture feature offers you the chance to write an amusing caption in the speech bubble in the picture. Email your caption, with your name and address, to pboro@dailymail.co.uk, to arrive by Thursday, September 22, 2022. The writer of the caption judged the best will win a £20 book token.

■THIS week's winner of the £20 book token is Clive Whichelow of London SW19, who has Rishi Sunak thinking as Liz Truss is announced as Conservative party leader:

Picture: PA

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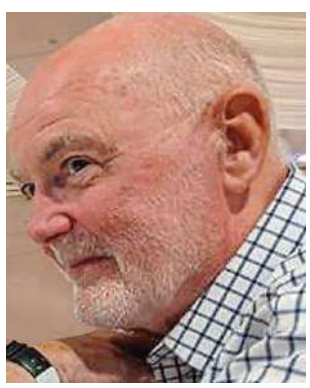
LIVES

HAVE you lost a relative or friend in recent months whose life you'd like to celebrate? Our Friday column tells the stories of ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives. Email your 500-word tribute and a favourite photo to: lives@dailymail.co.uk or write to: Extraordinary Lives, Daily Mail, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT. Please include a contact phone number.



Soaring high: Colin Sword

England and Scotland.
As an inspirational and enthusiastic pilot, Colin would happily share his knowledge gained over 54 years of flying. His log books show nearly 9,000 take-offs and landings, or launches in gliders, and 2,000 hours in powered aircraft.
His passion for soaring never diminished and as often as he could, 'CDS', as he was known, would be airborne in his Discus 15 m glassfibre and carbon sailplane. These flights could last more than three hours at altitudes over 20,000 ft and at speeds in excess of 100 mph. In a glider, there is no power after the initial aerotow, so Colin would rely on weather systems and his extraordinary ability to read the sky.
He described as pure bliss gazing down from his lofty perch in his slender craft over the border between Scotland and England.
His working career culminated as a planning management accountant for the NHS Blood Transfusion Service. As well as being a tug pilot towing gilders into the air, Colin was an accomplished scuba diver, motorcyclist and sea angler. Many a stormy night he could be found on the desolate beach of Druridge Bay with only his rod and Tilley lamp for company. Greatly missed by his partner Helen and son Mark, Colin will always be my big brother in my heart.

■ *COLIN DAVID SWORD, born March 7, 1952; died July 5, 2022, aged 70.*

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Compiled by Charles Legge

QUESTION Do sharks target undersea cables?

FISH, including sharks, do bite underwater cables and leave their teeth embedded in the sheathings. Yet their impact is small compared to fishing, dredging and seismic activity.

Almost all international data is transmitted by wires at the bottom of the oceans. They are the invisible force driving the internet, with many funded by Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Amazon. There are 380 submarine communications cables, mostly fibre optic, spanning 750,000 miles.

Bites by barracuda, shallow and deep-water sharks can penetrate the insulation, but less than 10 per cent of damage to cables is caused by fish.

The fibre-optic is wrapped in copper, which conducts the direct current that powers the cable, sometimes up to 10,000 volts. If broken, the electric current will race to ground, ie the seabed, disrupting transmission of the data.

The best documented case of shark attacks comes from the Canary Islands, where a deep-ocean fibre optic cable failed four times in water depths of 3,200 ft to 6,000 ft.

The culprit was the crocodile shark (*Pseudocarcharias kamoharai*), which is just 3 ft long, but appears to have a taste for cables.

It was thought that sharks are attracted by the electromagnetic fields radiating from the submerged cables. However, when tested at sea and in the laboratory, no clear link was established.

Cables have been redesigned with greater insulation and tougher protection to withstand fish bites.

Human impact causes most faults in cables, with fishing accounting for nearly half of cases. Anchoring is the second major cause followed by dredging, drilling and seabed abrasion. Seismic activity may cause damage in deep waters.

Dr Ken Warren, Glasgow.

QUESTION What is the earliest example of the Lord's Prayer?

THE Lord's Prayer appears twice in the New Testament. The longer version, Matthew 6:9-13, is at the heart of the Sermon on the Mount, in the context of Jesus's instruction about piety appropriate for his followers. The shorter version, Luke 11:2-4, responds to his disciples' request: 'Teach us to pray.'

However, most biblical scholars believe the prayer is derived from a common source they have designated by the letter Q (from the German word *Quelle*, meaning source).

Following this theory, Q had a translation of the Lord's Prayer that Matthew and Luke used differently for various contexts.

While considered to be the archetypal Christian prayer, it is noteworthy that it makes no mention of Christ and is similar to Jewish devotions of the time.

The synagogue prayer the Kaddish (which means holy) reads: 'Magnified and sanctified may his great name be in the world that he created, as he wills, and may his kingdom come in your life and in your days and in the lives of all the house of Israel, swiftly and soon.'

Jesus might well have taken an existing form and condensed it into an elegant prayer with three short statements about honouring God's name, kingdom and will.

The version used by the Anglican Church was adapted from the Gospel texts and laid down in the Book of Common Prayer in 1549. The line about 'trespasses' first appeared in the 1526 Bible translation by William Tyndale.

The final sentence, 'for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever' is called the doxology and has been part of the prayer since 1611.

It is not in the New Testament text, but is known from a late first century Greek text known as the Didache: 'For yours is the power and the glory for ever.'

Lawrence Goodman, Stroud, Glos.

QUESTIONS

Q: How much is the first Steiff teddy bear worth?

M. Springer, Reading, Berks.

Q: Why are there so many empty chateaux in France?

Steve Lloyd, Camborne, Cornwall.

Q: What type of plough would the Ancient Roman Cincinnatus have used on his farm?

Peter McNerney, Sheffield.

How Jaws gets wired

Picture: SHUTTERSTOCK

Menace: Sharks are a hazard to thousands of miles of underwater cables

QUESTION Can Chinese people read the literature of 2,500 years ago as easily as a modern newspaper?

LANGUAGES change over time due to changes in culture or in response to contact with other speakers. Chinese has several varieties, with Standard Chinese, also known as Mandarin, being the official language.

Though the way people speak has evolved significantly over the years, written Chinese has altered much less. Characters known as Hanzi were standardised during the Qin Dynasty, 221 BC to 206 BC, and have remained similar for more than two millennia.

That is not to say that reading Chinese literature from that long ago is easy. The same character has changed shape in various ways and the pattern has been simplified, though its rudimental meaning has stayed relatively unchanged.

There are more than 47,000 characters in the Kangxi Dictionary developed during the 18th and 19th centuries, but 90 per cent of Chinese newspapers and magazines use just 3,500.

If you were to give a Chinese person a 2,500-year-old piece of literature, it's likely they would recognise most of the characters and understand the meaning, though not necessarily the whole text.

Similarly, most of us can grasp Shakespearean English, but it isn't exactly smooth reading.

Emilie McRae, Trowbridge, Wilts.

■ IS THERE a question to which you want to know the answer? Or do you know the answer to a question here? Write to: Charles Legge, Answers To Correspondents, Daily Mail, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT; or email charles.legge@dailymail.co.uk. A selection is published, but we're unable to enter into individual correspondence.

TODAY'S RECIPE: Plum upside-down cake

PUD with the wow factor. Serves: 8-10.

Ingredients

- 150ml sunflower oil, plus extra for tin
- 50g butter, softened
- 300g light brown soft sugar
- 6 plums, stoned and cut into 8 wedges
- 284ml buttermilk
- 1tsp vanilla extract
- 4 eggs
- 325g self-raising flour
- ½tsp bicarb of soda

Method

1 Heat oven to 180c/160c fan/gas 4. Oil and line base of a deep 20cm springform cake tin. Combine butter with 50g of sugar and spread onto base of lined tin. Arrange plum wedges on top in concentric circles.

2 Whisk buttermilk, vanilla, rest of oil and sugar, and eggs in a large bowl. Mix in flour and bicarbonate of soda until you have a smooth batter. Pour on top of plums, then bake in oven for 45 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean. Leave to cool in tin, then invert onto a board or serving plate.

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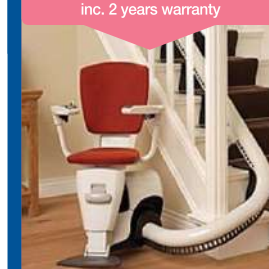

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Owners of student homes are cashing in on rents but there are still pitfalls to avoid

A steep learning curve for landlords

by Fred Redwood

OCTOBER is just around the corner and soon the country's 2.5 million students will be heading off to university.

That's good news for those young people who can look forward to their years of study and fun. And it's even better news for anyone contemplating renting a property to students.

Rents have risen by 61 per cent over the past decade and many landlords have made good money out of their investment. So how do you go about renting to students?

First, you need to find out what demand is like in the town or city you have in mind. Refer to a study published by *money.co.uk* comparing the number of dwellings in each UK region to the number of properties occupied by students.

This reveals that the most lucrative cities are Exeter, Nottingham and Newcastle, followed by Oxford and Leicester. The days when young people would settle for a Young Ones-style, overcrowded doss house are over.

'A lot of our clients are quite wealthy and they will ask for en suites, dishwashers, driers and a good standard of decor,' says Emma Croft-Pearson, of the Finders Keepers agency in Oxford. 'And the market has changed enormously post-Covid. They also prefer to share with just two friends, instead of a large group.'

Croft-Pearson advises new landlords to choose a property in a convenient location, preferably within cycling range of both the university and the nightlife.

Budget for wear and tear on furniture, buy durable, hard-wearing white goods and assume you'll need to pay for professional cleaners when each group leaves.

'And very important, show the students how the heating and ventilation system works,' says Croft-Pearson. 'Condensation spoils the fabric of a building and it's often caused by students not knowing how to turn on fans or radiators.'

CROFT-PEARSON advises landlords to find out exactly what the council requires before granting a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO) licence.

You will need insurance for an HMO. Get a solicitor to check your tenancy agreement and ask for guarantors from students. According to Accommodation For Students (AFS), the average price of a room iin an HMO is £113.85 pw before bills.

However, there is a new big beast in the world of student rentals: the Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA), an apartment block, built with students in mind. The average price of a room is an eye-watering £144 a week.

'They offer students a different experience,' says David Feeney, a partner in the Cushman & Wakefield student accommodation team. 'Students have their own bedrooms and bathrooms. There may be fitness studios and social spaces. Some even put on events programmes — like cooking classes.'

Feeney points out that PBSAs offer several benefits to the student. They have fixed utility costs. The tenant may also save money on gym membership.

James Forrester, at Stripe Property Group, who has PBSAs in Newcastle and Birmingham, says that investors in PBSAs should expect a yield of 7 per cent.

If you are contemplating buying an HMO property, you should be aware of two pieces of legislation in the pipeline. First, there is The Renters Reform Bill which, if passed, will do away with fixed-term tenancies. At present, students sign tenancy agreements for, typically, a year.

Also, by 2025 it will be a requirement that each HMO has an Energy Performance Certificate of at least C standard. Meeting that in older properties is likely to mean structural work such as installing double glazing and insulating the loft. This could cost £15,000 or more.

What is it like renting your property to a group of students?

'Don't imagine it just means handing over the keys and pocketing the rent,' says John Curtis, who owns several student houses in Oxford. 'I own Victorian terraced houses and repair work to the house or furnishings always needs to be done, be it mending a roof, replacing beds or buying new freezers.'

On the bright side, Curtis says: 'I get a lot of satisfaction helping young people settle into their first years at university. It's good fun.'

INTERIORS — PAGE 68

ON THE MARKET ... university living

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Fido doesn't know best

We love our dogs but they can be messy companions. Here's how to keep on top of canine chaos…

by Gareth Rubin

House and hound: The right fabrics can keep your sofa hair-free

ARE you in the dog house? Well, that might not be such a bad place after all. Around half of all British households have a pet, and our furry friends have never been so pampered.

But one thing all owners howl about (sorry) is the mess that four-legged friends tend to bring with them. So what can you do to stop your sofas being destroyed and your carpets being covered in mud?

BUILD A SHOWER ROOM

ACCORDING to interior designer Emma Sims-Hilditch: 'A pet shower never goes amiss in a household with dogs.

'These are often positioned in a boot or utility room and are a must-have for those wishing to keep a clean and tidy home, particularly after long and muddy walks.

'The shower can be integrated into the design of the room by using the same tile on the floor and walls of the shower. Not only does this look great, but it makes the shower practical and easy to clean.'

You want a dog-height shower, with a sturdy waterproof barrier around it, and preferably a good-sized towel warmer. Set the shower at waist level so you don't have to kneel to clean your dog, and a little step would be handy so they can walk in, rather than you having to lift them (and it can be used for muddy wellies, too).

Victorian Plumbing has a 3-Spray Dog Shower Handset (pictured below) for £96.24 (*victorianplumbing.co.uk*).

READY-MADE SPAS

IF YOU don't want to build a doggy spa, you can buy a ready-made, enclosed washing cubicle to keep in the garage or basement. You just need to connect it to the water supply and drainage.

Vevor produces a range in stainless steel, such as the 50in Pet Bath Tub, big enough for a large dog, which comes with a shower attachment, straps to hold your pooch in place and steps so they can clamber in (£917.99, *vevor.co.uk*).

TRY A PET 'CAR WASH'

DON'T have enough indoor space for a shower room? Consider building a washing zone outside, with a shower connected to the hot water supply.

To make light work of it, try the Woof Washer 360, a hand-held, hoop-shaped hose that you pass your dog through, a little like a car wash (£22, *amazon.co.uk*).

CHOOSE FURNITURE WISELY

ASK a dog or cat owner where Rover or Fluffy makes the most mess, and nine times out of ten the answer will be 'the sofa'.

You might be able to keep your canine pal off a fabric settee (try telling a cat where it can and can't sleep…), but those hairs will still somehow find their way on to the cushions. And good luck trying to vacuum them off.

So choose smooth materials, such as leather, or hard-wearing short, synthetic fibres, and stay well clear of anything that will trap dirt or fur or can be scratched (deliberately or inadvertently) by sharp little claws. That means velvet and velour are definitely out.

Wooden or cane legs are also inviting for doggies who fancy a chew, or cats who want to sharpen their claws. Stick to metal frames if you can. A dedicated scratching post is a must for cats.

'The choice of flooring is key,' says Emma Sims-Hilditch. 'We recommend avoiding loop pile carpets, which can be damaged easily by your pet's claws.

'Instead, we suggest laying a natural stone floor. These not only look great in a garden room, kitchen or boot room, but are incredibly durable.'

ZONE YOUR HOME

YOUR canine chum needs their own space sometimes. You can keep all of their toys there, too, so they don't infiltrate every nook and cranny of the house.

A play pen will do the trick, such as Lords & Labradors' Wooden Puppy Pen in white or grey (£129.99, *lordsandlabradors.co.uk*).

One reason that dogs often climb on to sofas is because they like elevated places for sleeping. If you buy a nice raised bed for them, they will be less tempted to climb on to the soft furnishings. The Dog Bed Company does an attractive, large, handcrafted oak bed with Queen Anne legs for £299 (*thedogbedcompany.co.uk*).

WATCH THE WALLS

CATS often stalk along walls, while dogs get overexcited and crash into them. Either way, if you have expensive textured wallpaper, it might take the brunt and end up dirty or torn. So stick to washable paint, such as Dulux Easycare (brilliant white emulsion, £50 for 10litres from B&Q, *diy.com*).

BANISH THOSE HAIRS!

PET fur can get absolutely everywhere. Tackle the problem with the Dyson Groom attachment, which allows you to vacuum your pet for stray hairs. Just what he or she thinks of it all you will only find out when you try (£65, *dyson.co.uk*).

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SAVINGS OF THE WEEK! DRYING RACKS

A TUMBLE dryer may be a handy appliance, but it can also be an energy guzzler. Despite the energy price cap freeze, most households will still be looking for ways to reduce their fuel bills this winter, which makes an electric heated airer worth considering.

These racks dry clothes effectively and the cost is about a third of that of a tumble dryer. Devotees also like that they are gentler on garments than dryers — and far kinder to the planet.

Robert Dyas, with a large range of models, offers the Status 220W dryer in silver, which would be suitable for a single person or a student.

It is reduced from £69.99 to £49.99. Robert Dyas also stocks the Black & Decker three-tier rack (left), which would suit a larger household. Its price has been cut by £50 from £199.99 to £149.99 (*robertdyas.co.uk*).

At Lakeland you can take £15 off the Dry:Soon three-tier rack bundle. This includes a cover, which helps to keep heat in and turns into a storage bag. The price is now £177.98 (*lakeland.co.uk*).

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MOTOR MAIL

THE SWEDISH

Gothenburg-based Polestar is forging ahead with plans to roll out sleek, electric cars around the world, with Britain firmly in its sights. Look out Tesla!

WE TEND to think of Swedish design as forward-thinking, practical, stylish — and Polestar is no different. The electric car firm with Chinese owners, a lineage harking back to Volvo and ethical vegan interiors is all neutral tones and sleek lines.

But the beating heart of this performance electric car-maker is now increasingly in Britain, as I have just witnessed for myself. Polestar is one of a new breed of 'disruptor' electric car manufacturers aiming to challenge and shake up the traditional market.

If you haven't yet fully registered the ambitions of this Scandinavian rival to Elon Musk's Tesla, here's what you need to know.

AIMING HIGH

WITH 8,000 of its new cars on UK roads alone, Polestar sold 29,000 cars globally last year and aims to increase that tenfold by delivering 290,000 vehicles by 2025. It's already well on track, with 22,000 sold in the first half of this year, far higher than by the same time in 2021.

Polestar has about 340 employees in the UK, but that is set to rise. It has a new cutting-edge research and development engineering centres in Coventry and Warwickshire; in December, it is opening a new commercial headquarters and customer Test Drive Hub at Bicester Heritage; and a major new UK flagship showroom is set to open imminently, adding to those already in Manchester, Solihull in Birmingham and at the Westfield shopping centre in Shepherd's Bush, London.

Spun off from Volvo in 2017 as a standalone Swedish performance electric vehicle manufacturer based in Gothenburg, Polestar is a subsidiary of Chinese car giant Geely.

With two models already launched — the 1 and 2 — Polestar will be launching four new models over the next five years following the same simple numeric pattern: 3, 4, 5 and 6.

EYES ON THE PRIZE

TO SEE the firm's progress for myself, I've just paid an exclusive visit to its new research and development engineering centre based at MIRA — the Motor Industry Research Association near Nuneaton in Warwickshire.

There, the growing team is set to expand to about 500 and there's an additional centre down the road in Coventry.

The MIRA base is located at the heart of the UK's motor industry with the likes of Jaguar Land Rover, MINI, BMW's Hams Hall engine plant, and many more suppliers all within striking distance.

Once through security and into the sprawling MIRA site, where much secret new car testing is carried out, I made my way to the Polestar building dominated by a large, cavernous workshop in which a variety of electric test cars were lined up in bays in various states of 'undress'.

Most of the test cars being worked on were the imposingly streamlined Polestar 5, a high-performance, 874bhp, four-door GT set for launch in 2024 to take on the Tesla Model S, Porsche Taycan and Audi e-tron GT.

One of the test cars, lightly camouflaged, had its first public dynamic outing driving up the hill at this year's Goodwood Festival of Speed.

Unveiled initially as the prototype Precept, there will be on-road testing in the UK, too.

But under tight, black covers I also spied the silhouette of the new Polestar 6 electric roadster — also shown statically at Goodwood — which is based on

PAST AND FUTURE POLESTARS

POLESTAR 1 — 2017

LAUNCHING the Polestar brand, only 1,500 two-seater, petrol-electric 609hp hybrid GTs were built. Costing from £139,000, they went from 0-62mph in 4.2 seconds and had a top speed of 155mph.

POLESTAR 2 – FROM 2019

THE sole model currently on sale is priced from £43,150 to £49,550, has a range up to 301 miles and goes from 0-60mph in 4.5 seconds.

POLESTAR 3 – 2022

THE pure electric SUV, launching next month, is expected to cost from £70,000.

POLESTAR 5 — 2024

THE firm's scintillating, four-door grand tourer — boasting a whopping 874hp — is slated for launch in 2024 and will take on the Tesla Model S, Porsche Taycan and Audi e-tron GT.

POLESTAR 6 — 2026

HARD-TOP convertible 'hero' sports car goes from 0 to 62mph in 3.2 seconds, up to a limited top speed of 155mph.

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CHALLENGE

On the up: The Polestar 2 costs from £43,150

the firm's same bespoke bonded aluminium platform, but is shorter.

FRESH START

POLESTAR announced in August that this battery-powered hard-top convertible is to be launched in 2026 as its 'hero' car that 'redefines sports roadsters for the electric age'.

Powered by twin motors developing 884hp, it is expected to accelerate from rest to 62mph in just 3.2 seconds up to a top speed limited to 155mph. The initial 500 limited edition versions sold out within a week.

The company's journey began in 2017 with the unveiling of the Polestar 1, which was built between 2019 and 2021 as a low-volume petrol-electric 609hp performance hybrid two-seater GT, rather than a pure electric car.

The car accelerated from rest to 62mph in 4.2 seconds up to a limited top speed of 155mph. Priced from £139,000, only 1,500 were built.

Polestar 2 followed and is the sole model on sale today, priced from £43,150 for the single-motor version, which has a range of up to 297 miles and accelerates from rest to 60mph in seven seconds.

The more powerful dual motor version, costing from £49,550, has a range of up to 301 miles and accelerates from rest to 60mph in 4.5 seconds.

In October, Polestar will launch its first SUV — Polestar 3 — ahead of first deliveries next year and is expected to cost from £70,000. A smaller crossover SUV — Polestar 4 — is also in the pipeline for launch next year.

For consumers, arguably the most significant change will be Polestar's boutique showrooms — called 'Spaces' — where you can view the vehicles. But staff are forbidden from selling the cars to you with the usual showroom rhetoric.

Customers can look over models on offer, take advice from non-commissioned specialists, configure their ideal vehicle on screens, and even take a road test.

But they can only buy their car online — from home or with help in store.

Jonathan Goodman, head of Polestar UK, says: 'We are changing the face of automotive retail. It's an entirely customer-focused journey.'

THE NEXT GENERATION NISSAN X-TRAIL

CHANGING weather suggests autumn is well on its way, so with perfect timing Nissan has launched a fourth-generation X-Trail off-roader designed to cope with all the elements.

The range's biggest seller is expected to be the 'e-POWER' hybrid — which has a 1.5 litre turbo petrol engine that generates electricity for the 150kW front motor to drive the wheels.

It has the option of a dual-motor e-4ORCE all-wheel drive system which allows

the car to accelerate 0-62mph in seven seconds.

There is a choice of five or seven seats, while an 'e-Pedal Step', which allows drivers to accelerate and brake using one pedal, is another option.

There is also a two-wheel-drive mild-hybrid version — using the 163hp 1.5-litre petrol engine to power the wheels.

Prices are from £32,000 for the entry-level Visia trim, up to £42,520 for the top-of-the-range Tekna+. Choosing e-Power adds £2,435, all-wheel drive e4ORCE adds £2,200 and seven seats another £1,000.

So you could be paying £48,155 before choosing any additional extras.

THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD TO SCHOOL

WITH the new school year well under way, a survey of 2,000 UK parents found the average school run is 10.4 miles.

The research from Citroen also found that parents drive their children to school on average 3.5 times a week, with public transport, lifts from other parents, walking and cycling making up the rest of the trips.

And 7 per cent of 'taxi of mum and dad' respondents reported having to cover more than 30 miles during the school run.

With the cost-of-living crisis in full flow, Citroen has calculated that parents driving its e-C4 electric models, with a range of 219 miles, could complete up to 20 clean-air school runs on

Future perfect: Electric cars can cut the cost of the average 10.4-mile school run

a single charge with zero emissions. Priced from £30,995, the e-C4 features a 50kWh lithium-ion battery pack, paired with an electric motor producing 136hp, and can be fast-charged from 0-80 per cent in just 30 minutes.

One in five parents (19 per cent) said they were strongly concerned about vehicle emissions outside schools, and 41 per cent were somewhat concerned.

Previous research carried out in London found that children are exposed to five times more air pollution on the school run than when they are in school.

Eurig Druce, Citroen's UK managing director, says: 'Doing the school run in an electric car not only reduces local air pollution but also helps families save on day-to-day running costs.'

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With the arrival of their son, Jasmine and her husband needed to upgrade their car to something more suitable for their growing family.

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'When Cazoo delivered our car the Handover Specialist was really friendly and informative. He spoke to us about the car's features and it was

'The best thing was having the car delivered to our doorstep and having seven days to get to know it'

a very positive experience.

'The best thing was having the car delivered to our doorstep and having seven days to get to know it and to make sure it was the right one for us.

'This is our first car that we've bought as a family, so it had to be perfect.

'Before my son, we would have spent a whole weekend driving around to different car dealers. But when your priorities change, convenience is key.'

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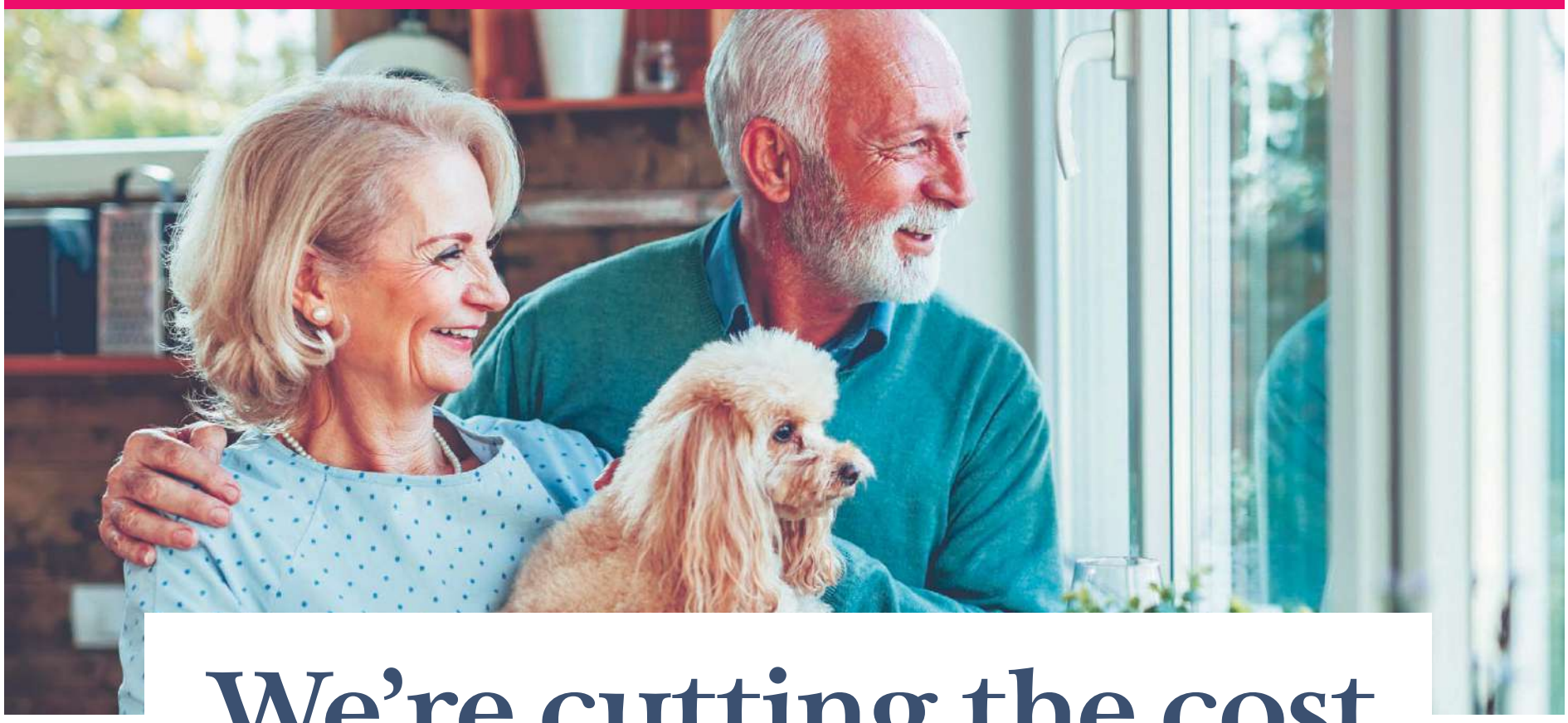

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City&Finance

92 per cent
fall in Hut shares since stock market float

City Editor: Alex Brummer www.thisismoney.co.uk Group Business Editor: Ruth Sunderland

Hut shares crash as two directors quit

by ***Archie Mitchell***

SHARES in The Hut Group crashed to record lows as it sounded the alarm over sales and saw the shock walkout of two top directors.

The embattled online retailer said Zillah Byng-Thorne and Andreas Hansson had resigned 'with immediate effect'.

And THG said sales and profits would be lower than expected this year as costs spiral and consumers cut back on spending.

Shares fell 18.4pc, or 9p, to 40p.

It is the latest in a series of blows for the business which has now lost more than 90pc of its value since joining the stock market two years ago.

At the time The Hut Group – now known as THG – was seen as the darling of the stock market, floating its shares at 500p a piece. They briefly topped 800p, leaving the company worth almost £10bn.

But it has been hit by a slew of corporate governance concerns and questions about its lofty valuation, leaving it worth around £500m. That has seen THG founder and chief executive Matt Moulding lose as much as £1.26bn on his own 22pc stake, which is now worth around £115m. Byng-Thorne was one of two directors who walked out of the boardroom yesterday alongside Hansson, who joined last October.

Matt Moulding and wife Jodie

Her departure after nine years is a blow to the already-struggling firm as the 47-year-old is one of the UK's most successful chief executives. Byng-Thorne is credited with turning around publishing giant Future and has helped its shares soar around 1000pc in the past eight years.

Joining the board after her departure is Dean Moore, the former finance chief at Cineworld, which filed for bankruptcy in the US this month. Also joining is former Microsoft senior manager Gillian Kent.

The boardroom shake-up came alongside THG results for the first half of the year in which sales hit a record £1.1bn. But the firm behind brands including Lookfantastic and Myprotein was pummelled by soaring costs of whey and other materials. It lost £89.2m in the first half of the year, five times higher than in the same period a year ago.

THG said sales growth would stall in the second half of the year as the mounting cost of living prompts customers to rein in spending. It said sales growth will now be as high as 15pc, down from an earlier forecast of up to 24pc. Meanwhile, its profit forecast for the year was also slashed from being in line with last year's £161m to between £100m and £130m.

Despite the most recent crash Moulding said he is still confident the business can deliver 'long-term value' for shareholders.

The bleak update comes just months after Moulding rejected a series of takeover bids that would have valued THG as much as £2bn.

AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould said: 'THG declared it had made "substantial progress", but investors who have suffered a 92pc share price loss since the company joined the stock market may think otherwise.'

John Lewis needs Xmas miracle to pay bonus

Department store racks up near £100m half-year loss

by ***Archie Mitchell***

JOHN Lewis warned staff there may be no annual bonus this year after it crashed to a near-£100m loss.

As analysts said it would need a 'Christmas miracle' for the payout to go ahead, the retailer said yesterday it was suffering from 'unprecedented' cost increases and lower consumer spending.

Chairman Dame Sharon White said: 'No one could have predicted the scale of the cost of living crisis that has materialised, with energy prices and inflation rising ahead of anyone's expectations.'

The High Street stalwart – which owns the John Lewis department stores and Waitrose supermarkets – said the number of shoppers visiting its stores rose in the first half of the year.

But, it warned, they were spending less. At Waitrose, basket sizes shrunk by a fifth as shoppers flocked to its Anyday value range.

'Consumers will tighten belts'

At John Lewis, consumers shelved purchases of big ticket items in favour of eating out and going on holidays. The partnership said sales in the first half of the year slipped 2.6pc in the first half of the year to £5.7bn.

Waitrose sales slipped 5pc to £3.6bn. Meanwhile, John Lewis sales rose 3pc to £2.1bn

White said: 'As a business, we have faced unprecedented cost inflation across grocery and general merchandise. We are forgoing profit by making choices based on the sort of business we are, led by our purpose.'

John Lewis gave a one-off £500 payment to its 76,000 full-time partners and is offering free food during shifts this winter.

The retailer also held back some of the soaring costs of food and materials rather than passing them on to customers.

White added that John Lewis will need 'a substantial strengthening of performance' to be in a position to award a bonus this year. She warned the outlook for the remainder of the year, including the crucial Christmas period, is 'highly uncertain' as the cost of living mounts.

She held out hope for the bonus, stressing it is 'not unusual' for John Lewis to make losses in the first half as business is heavily dependent on Christmas.

Zoe Miller, senior analyst at analytics and consulting company GlobalData, said: 'Profits could worsen as the retailer highlighted how integral Christmas will be for its performance this year.

'And as the energy cap rises next month, more consumers are expected to tighten their belts.' Retail analyst Nick Bubb said if the bonus is scrapped again, the one-off cost of living award and free meals over Christmas will have 'softened the blow' already.

He said: 'It is hard to call the outlook, pending more clarity in the upcoming mini-budget on the Government's plans to support the consumer and businesses, but it will need a Christmas miracle for the John Lewis Partnership to pay a bonus this year.'

The group scrapped its bonus scheme during the pandemic for the first time since 1953 as shops were closed and the chain lost millions.

Last year it restored the award at 3pc of salaries based on the group's strong performance, although this was a long way from 2013 highs of 17pc.

Cautious: John Lewis boss Dame Sharon White

Roof falls in on DIY and furniture

DIY and furniture retailers became the latest to warn that shoppers are spending less because of the cost of living crisis.

Home improvement business Wickes and sofa giant DFS said they had both seen 'softening' demand for their products over the past few months as customers tighten their belts.

Wickes's warning came despite a strong first half to the year, with shoppers rushing for insulation products to improve efficiency in a bid to cut down on energy bills. Revenues were £822m in the six months to July 2022, up 1.3pc on the previous year, but profit shrank 9pc to £56.3m as the business absorbed inflation in materials such as timber and cement.

Like Wickes, DFS also posted a fall in profits for the full year, tumbling to £60.3m from £109.2m.

Boss Tim Stacey described the 12 months as 'the most operationally challenging' he can remember as soaring bills meant fewer customers are in the market for a sofa. 'We are not alone in having to navigate these issues,' he added.

Failed fund: Neil Woodford

As City watchdog paves the way for £300m payout...

Woodford savers still seeking answers

by ***Lucy White***

THREE years after savers in Neil Woodford's flagship fund were locked out of their nest-eggs, they are starting to get answers.

The City watchdog this week said it was likely to force Link, the firm responsible for supervising Woodford's management of his funds, to pay a penalty of up to £306m.

This might seem like small recompense for investors who have lost around £1bn since the Woodford Equity Income Fund (WEIF) was shuttered by Link in 2019.

The fund was frozen after a flood of investors tried to pull their money out, following a run of poor performance on Woodford's behalf.

Of the £3.7bn in the fund, investors have received £2.5bn. There is £118.5m which remains tied up in assets which are yet to be sold.

The remaining £1bn disappeared.

Here, we explore some of the parties involved, and whether they can be pursued...

NEIL WOODFORD

THOUGH it was Woodford himself who caused a problem for investors, ploughing too much of their money into risky, illiquid stocks which couldn't be sold in a rush, there is little opportunity for savers to target him directly.

It was Link, rather than Woodford, who had a duty to investors – a distinction which became ever more frustrating as victims saw the 62-year-old renovating his multi-million pound holiday home in Devon while they were nursing their losses. A lawsuit led by investors against the fallen fund manager seems unlikely, but he and his key employees have been scrutinised by the FCA. Three years after this probe began, savers will be hoping that the watchdog will soon announce its result – and slap a fine on the fallen fund manager.

LINK

GIVEN that Link was responsible for supervising Woodford's management of WEIF on behalf of savers, it is perhaps unsurprising that it was first in the firing line.

Now part of Australian-listed Link Group, but formerly part of outsourcer Capita, the firm has previously been forced to pay out £32m and £66m to investors involved in the Arch Cru and Connaught fund debacles.

After featuring heavily in the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) probe into the Woodford scandal, it is likely to face a £306m penalty – but shared between around 300,000 investors, this won't equate to much.

Link is also being pursued by law firms Leigh Day and Harcus Parker, who have joined forces on behalf of around 13,000 WEIF investors to take Link to court.

Meriel Hodgson-Teall, a solicitor at Leigh Day, said the FCA's suggested penalty was 'nowhere near enough to compensate the many thousands who suffered huge and life-changing financial losses investing in this fund'.

The lawyers are claiming that Link failed in its duties to investors leading up to the suspension of the fund, and broke FCA guidelines.

Savers can still join the case. But Hodgson-Teall warned that the FCA may not allow them to claim part of the £306m if they are also hoping to get legal damages. The FCA is yet to confirm the details of the Link redress package, but Woodford victims could be left with the tricky decision of whether to take the money which the FCA extracts from Link or to pursue the firm in court in the hope of a bigger pay-out.

HARGREAVES LANSDOWN

THE UK's largest investment platform also attracted ire during the Woodford debacle as it continued to recommend WEIF right up until the fund's suspension. Savers who relied on Hargreaves Lansdown's (HL) Wealth 50 best-buy list for advice were furious when WEIF shuttered. Just a month before, HL's then-head of research Mark Dampier predicted the beleaguered Woodford was set to turn a corner. Dampier has since retired.

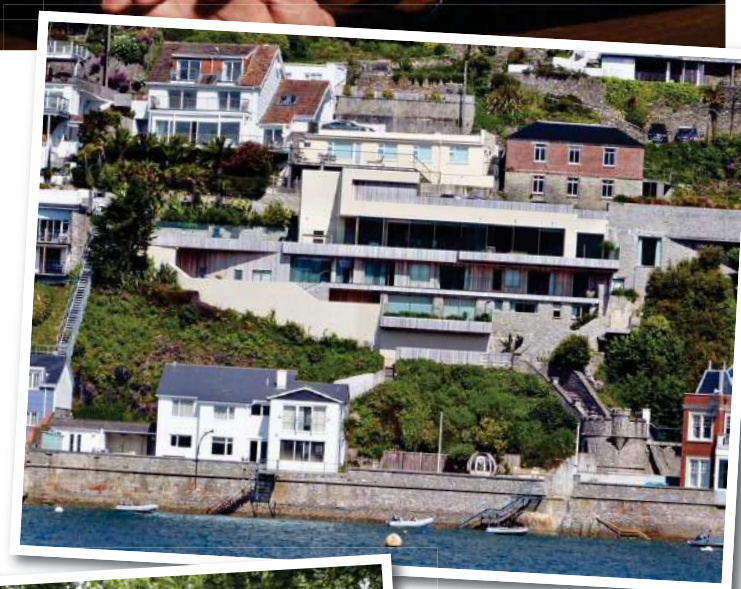
HL is also a target of the FCA's probe, though the regulator has not yet announced whether it plans to penalise HL as it has Link. Boss Chris Hill apologised to clients, but HL is still facing a lawsuit brought by litigation company RGL Management, which works with lawyers to build a case, on behalf of clients.

The Mail understands RGL is due to file its claim – which will also target Link – within weeks.

Unfortunately, savers are unlikely to be able to sign up to multiple legal cases, so will have to choose between RGL and Leigh Day/Harcus Parker.

NORTHERN TRUST

A LESSER-known party which became embroiled in the Woodford disaster was Northern Trust (NT), WEIF's so-called depositary. In a similar way to how Link was supposed to keep Woodford in check, NT was charged with keeping an eye on Link. Questions arose over whether NT challenged Link over Woodford's steady accumulation of hard-to-sell stocks. Again, it will be up to the FCA's probe to assess whether NT went awry.



Above: Woodford's home in Salcombe, Devon. Left: Practising show-jumping

GUERNSEY'S STOCK EXCHANGE

THE International Stock Exchange (TISE), an obscure stock market operating on Guernsey, found itself in the limelight after Woodford used it to list stocks held by WEIF.

Woodford had snapped up several early-stage companies which were not listed on a stock market – a risky venture since these businesses are harder to sell in a hurry, and have to comply with fewer governance requirements.

For this reason, FCA rules state that they must only constitute 10pc of a fund's holdings. But Woodford found himself repeatedly breaching this cap. Rather than getting rid of the stakes, he listed them on TISE in a cynical attempt to dodge FCA rules.

TISE was criticised by some industry insiders for not running further checks on Woodford.

The exchange has claimed it did nothing wrong, and blamed the FCA for failing to act fast enough when it reported concerns. It could feature in the FCA probe, although Guernsey's regulator – the Guernsey Financial Services Commission (GFSC) – would have to lead any investigation. The GFSC declined to comment.

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Biting the bonus bullet

Alex Brummer

CITY EDITOR

FOLLOWING a summer when the nation has been bludgeoned by the cost of living crisis, it looks the wrong moment for Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng to be flying kites about freeing up bankers' bonuses.

It could be considered immoral to be advocating such a policy at present.

The public has never forgiven the bankers for nearly bankrupting Britain in 2007-08, triggering anti-bank protests at St Paul's.

In current circumstances, pay restraint should be the imperative, especially at the big domestic banks Lloyds and NatWest.

International banks that have made their global homes in London, such as Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan, together with British counterparts Barclays and HSBC, operate in the remuneration free-for-all universe of New York, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Having broken free from Brussels, it makes little sense for the UK to abide by bonus-capping rules made in the EU.

The policy places the City of London and financial services, the most significant export-generating and taxpaying sector of the UK, at competitive disadvantage.

Critical financial teams may as well work in Frankfurt, Paris or Dublin. The bank bonus debate has to be seen in the wider context of bolstering financial services and growth. The incoming Lord Mayor of London, Nick Lyons, a former Lehman banker and chairman of insurer Phoenix, tells The Spectator that he doesn't favour 'a bonfire of regulations'. He does want to see the Bank of England's prudential arm end its adherence to an EU-imposed rulebook. Lyons advocates making it easier for UK insurers and pension funds to lend longer term to infrastructure projects such as new nuclear.

At present the UK is dependent on overseas funding for projects such as the super-generator at Hinkley in Somerset and the Thames Tideway. There are a wealth of areas where London could be held back if it insists on keeping regulation parallel to the EU. As one of the world's most trusted legal centres, the City has also become a global hub for providing litigation finance, which, among other things, offered the wherewithal for successful actions against Volkswagen over cheating on emissions data. The EU is seeking to bring in legislation which would severely constrain operations.

Britain needs to discourage any moves away from current self-regulation.

The timing of Kwarteng's bank bonus initiative, nevertheless, looks untimely.

When predecessor George Osborne tried something similar in 2014, he was turned back by an adviser to the European Court of Justice. Osborne argued that the cap would drive bankers out of Europe and only serve to bolster basic pay at the expense of bonuses, distorting reward systems.

Pay envy and red tape recently saw Reckitt Benckiser's valued chief executive Laxman Narasimhan leave Britain for sunnier uplands in the US.

Fat-cat pay isn't fair and is wildly overdone. But when it comes to global executives and bankers, the UK can no longer be an island and must live or die in a global marketplace.

Pay gusher

SHELL boss Ben van Beurden looks set for a golden goodbye, having already earned £80m as chief executive of the FTSE 100's biggest beast. The optics in an energy crisis are not good. It was Van Beurden who rightly saw the value of natural gas when he bought BG Group (former exploration arm of British Gas) in 2016.

His successor Wael Sawan offers a break with the past.

Choosing a Lebanese-born Canadian brings to an end Shell's Anglo-Dutch leadership model.

It seems that the FTSE can do diversity at the highest level in the manner of the top offices of state.

At 48, Sawan moves into the chief executive seat at a tricky juncture. War in Ukraine has given a boost to fossil fuels at a time when Sawan has been focusing on investment in low carbon energies.

One bit of advice. Avoid making glib jokes about cash machines.

Skin deep

TWO years after e-beauty retailer The Hut Group (THG) came to the London market with a valuation of £5bn, it is now worth just £500m.

Sales forecasts have been lowered for this year, there has been an outflow of cash of £271m and the company is bolstering its board with the addition of former Cineworld finance director Dean Moore. That is unlikely to be a confidence booster.

Recession fear over rate hikes

CENTRAL banks could tip the global economy into a 'devastating' recession if they hike interest rates too high, the World Bank has warned.

As the Bank of England, the European Central Bank and the US Federal Reserve push ahead with unprecedented rate rises, the Washington DC-based organisation sounded a note of caution.

A day earlier, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) – the World Bank's sister organisation – urged central banks to be 'stubborn' in the fight against inflation. The mixed messages, showing just how divided experts are in their approach to tackling red-hot inflation, may have left policy-makers scratching their heads.

The Fed has embarked on an aggressive fight against inflation, hiking rates by an abnormally large 0.75 percentage points at both of its most recent monetary policy meetings to a range between 2.25pc and 2.5pc.

The higher rates are in the US, the more the dollar rises. This then makes inflation worse in other countries who must pay more to import anything sold in dollars.

The Bank of England is due to hike rates again next week and is widely expected to announce its own unprecedented 0.75 percentage point lift – taking rates to 2.5pc.

Trust in Bank on inflation collapses

TRUST in the Bank of England's abilities to keep inflation under control has slid to a record low.

The balance of those satisfied with the Bank's action on the cost of living crisis sank from -3pc to -7pc in August, according to its latest Inflation Attitudes Survey.

Inflation remained stubbornly high last month.

Although the rise in prices fell back from July's 40-year high of 10.1pc to 9.9pc, it is still well above its 2pc target, figures showed.

Myron Jobson, senior personal finance analyst at Interactive Investor, said the results will 'turn up the heat' on the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee which is set to hike rates again next week.

Since December 2021, the rate-setting committee has made six consecutive hikes to interest rates.

Golden goodbye for Shell's £80m chief

by ***John-Paul Ford Rojas***

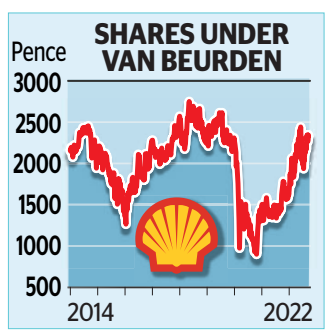
SHELL boss Ben van Beurden will be handed a lucrative exit package when he departs later this year – on top of the £80m he has been paid so far as chief executive.

The oil giant confirmed yesterday that Van Beurden will leave after nine years at the helm.

The 64-year-old will be replaced by Shell's gas and renewables boss Wael Sawan as it aims for a greener future.

Van Beurden's exit has been under discussion for months. It follows the appointment of chairman Sir Andrew Mackenzie in May last year.

He has been paid £78.6m up to 2021 and is in line for a maximum £13.8m for this year, on top of which he will receive an exit package worth millions of pounds, the Mail understands.



Pay arrangements for new boss Sawan, a 48-year-old Shell veteran, will be disclosed in next year's annual report. Profits have been booming after Russia's invasion of Ukraine pushed up oil and gas prices – and amounted to a record £9.5bn in the second quarter alone.

But the company, like rivals, is preparing for a future in which the world tries to wean itself off fossil fuels in the fight against climate change. Under Van Beurden, Shell has committed to halve emissions by 2030 and become a carbon net zero business by 2050. But last year the company lost a legal case brought by climate activists when a Dutch court ordered it to cut emissions faster.

It is also seen by many in the industry as playing catch-up to rival BP, which has vowed to make a raft of investments in more sustainable energy sources by 2025. The appointment of Sawan as chief executive appears to reflect an intensifying focus on the transition.

'For a group whose renewable strategy has been somewhat vague, though grand sounding, this is a clear marker that Shell intends to change this,' said Sophie Lund-Yates, lead equity analyst at investment platform Hargreaves Lansdown.

'Change won't happen overnight but it's reasonable to think that at least tweaks to the existing renewable strategy could be on the cards.'

Dutchman Van Beurden, who joined Shell in 1983, will stay on as an adviser until next June. He has steered the company through two oil price slumps, most recently after the pandemic in 2020, when he cut the dividend for the first time since the Second World War. He said: 'It has been a privilege and an honour to have served Shell for nearly four decades and to lead the company for the past nine years.'

Stepping down: Ben van Beurden

OIL GIANT GOES GREEN WITH NEW BOSS

THE next boss of the FTSE 100's biggest company is a Beirut-born Lebanese-Canadian who has already spent 25 years at Shell.

Based in The Hague, Wael Sawan will move to the UK to oversee a global business currently valued at £169bn. Sawan, a married father of three sons, grew up in Dubai and earned a master's degree in chemical engineering in Montreal and an MBA at Harvard.

He has held senior roles at Shell's operations across the world before being appointed last year to run its gas and renewables arm.

FTSE 100	FTSE 250	FTSE All Share	DOW	NIKKEI	HANG SENG	DAX	Brent Spot	Gold
7282.07	18886.32	4000.33	30961.82	27875.91	18930.38	12956.66	90.84	1684.20
▲ 4.77 0.07%	▲ 37.12 0.20%	▲ 3.50 0.09%	▼ 173.27 0.56%	▲ 57.29 0.21%	▲ 83.28 0.44%	▼ 71.34 0.55%	▼ 3.66 3.87%	▼ 20.09 1.18%
H:7672.40 L:6903.91	H:23896.65 L:18315.31	H:4296.96 L:3862.39	H:36799.65 L:29888.78	H:30500.05 L:24717.53	H:26136.02 L:18415.08	H:16271.75 L:12401.20	H:123.58 L:88.00	H:1853.07 L:1684.20

£/$ 1.1478 ▼ 0.0091 H:1.3821 L:1.1469

£/€ 1.1488 ▼ 0.0084 H:1.2102 L:1.1529

Tourist Rates £1 Buys

Aus$	1.62	Den Kr	8.19	Jpn Y	157.70	SA R	18.95
Can$	1.45	Euro €	1.10	NZ $	1.79	Sw Fr	1.06
						US $	1.10

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Bleak day for Hilton Food as cost of living crisis bites

MARKET REPORT

By John Abiona

HILTON Food Group suffered its darkest day on the stock market yesterday after warning that its full-year profit would be lower than expected.

The FTSE 250 firm, which supplies fresh food to the likes of Tesco and Waitrose, said it faced soaring interest rates while customers pulled back on spending amid the cost of living crunch.

Its bleak half-year results sent shares tumbling 28.3pc, or 266p, to 675p on its worst day since joining the stock market in 2007.

Hilton said it was not 'immune' from the impact of rising inflation but remains 'well-placed' as it caters for the UK, Europe and Australia.

Boss Philip Heffer injected some cheer for investors by hailing the acquisition of smoked salmon producer Foppen in March which helped Hilton break into the US market. Posting half-year results, Hilton said revenue rose 20.4pc to £2bn on the back of volume growth and price increases on raw materials. Profit slid 3.9pc to £34.4m due to higher interest costs. The group also cut its interim dividend to 7.1p from 8.2p last year. AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould said: 'Hilton Foods is suffering from the cost of living crisis as consumers are watching every penny.'

Hilton's slump filtered through the sector as shares in meat producer **Cranswick** slid 5.3pc, or 164p, to 2940p, supermarket sandwich supplier **Greencore** fell 2.7pc, or 2.35p, to 86.3p and the maker of Mr Kipling, **Premier Foods**, sank 1.3pc, or 1.4p, to 104.6p.

The **FTSE 100** was up 0.07pc, or 4.77 points, to 7282.07 and the **FTSE 250** also added 0.2pc, or 37.12 points, to 18886.32.

Rolls-Royce was among the biggest blue-chip risers after it completed the sale of Spanish engine firm ITP Aero to a group of investors led by the private equity firm Bain Capital for around £1.56bn.

Rolls said it would use the sale proceeds of £1.5bn to help repay a £2bn loan as shares in the jet engine maker gained 2.3pc, or 1.7p, to 76.86p.

Heavyweight pharmaceutical giants were hit with downgrades from Credit Suisse.

The broker lowered **AstraZeneca's** rating to 'neutral' from 'outperform', sending shares down 0.2pc, or 22p, to 10130p.

Credit Suisse hiked **GSK's** rating to 'neutral' from 'underperform' but slashed its target price to 1430p from 1630p on the basis that it thinks the company could have to pay around £4.35bn in damages related to the heartburn drug Zantac.

But GSK shares held firm to close up 0.4pc, or 5.4p, at 1337.6p.

Investors in **B&M** can start thinking about life after Simon Arora as the discount retailer announced the start date for his replacement. Finance boss Alex Russo will take over as chief executive from September 26 while Arora, who has been at the helm since December 2004, will stay on the board as an executive director until next April. Shares took a dive by 2.2pc, or 7.7p, to 345.1p.

Engineering firm **Renishaw** said orders are cooling from the semiconductor and electronics sector amid increasing market caution.

The mid-cap group, which specialises in 3D printing, has also faced rising labour costs.

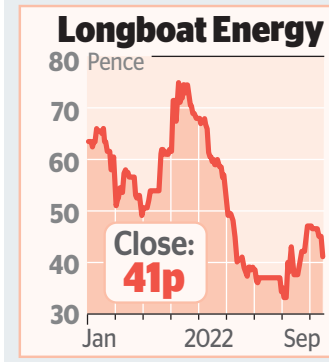
Posting a record set of results, the company said revenue rose 19pc to £671.1m in the year to end of June while profit soared 37pc to £163.7m. Renishaw shares fell 1pc, or 36p, to 3484p.

Trainline shares were also on the slide despite a positive set of half-year results.

The ticketing app said ticket sales rose 17pc to £2.2bn from March to the end of August.

Even though Trainline maintained its full-year guidance on ticket sales, revenue growth and profit, shares inched down 2.1pc, or 7.7p, to 356.6p.

STOCK WATCH



■ SHARES in Longboat Energy slid after a well that was estimated to contain 254m barrels of oil turned out to be dry.

The North Sea oil group said the Copernicus well located off the coast of Norway will be plugged and abandoned.

Polish company PGNiG led the exploration, with Longboat holding a 10pc stake.

'The drilling operations were carried out well within the time schedule and below budget,' a Longboat spokesman added. Shares fell 8.9pc, or 4p, to 41p.

TOP RISERS

	CLOSING PRICE	DAILY CHANGE	REASON
Aston Martin	179.90	+17.05%	Bargain hunting
Carnival	832.00	+8.16%	Cruise ship optimism
Redrow	505.00	+6.41%	Broker rating
Abrdn Private Equity	433.00	+5.87%	Recovers losses
Crest Nicholson	231.60	+5.27%	Sector bounce

TOP FALLERS

	CLOSING PRICE	DAILY CHANGE	REASON
Hilton Food Group	675.00	-28.27%	Profit warning
Cranswick	2940.00	-5.28%	Industry woes
WAG Payment	91.30	-4.90%	Recession fears
TBC Bank	1754.00	-4.57%	Funding issues
Melrose	111.75	-4.28%	Sell-off continues

			High	Low
Aerospace & Defence				
Aston Martin	179⅛	+26¼	1963½	153¼
BAE Systems	774¼	+3⅜	838⅜	528¼
Chemring Gp	289	+2½	367½	256
QinetiQ	328⅜	-1¼	394¼	243
Rolls-Royce	76⅛	+1¼	147½	71¼
TI Fluid Systems	143⅜xd	+⅛	287½	136
Banks				
Banco Santander	232½	+6¼	290⅞	193⅜
Bank of Georgia	2100	-5	2205	986
Barclays	172¼xd	+2⅛	217⅞	140⅜
HSBC Hldgs	529¼xd	+10¼	567¼	359¼
Lloyds Banking	47⅛	+1⅛	55⅞	41
NatWest Group	274¼xd	+4½	274¼	192⅛
Stan Chartered	609¼xd	-3¼	638⅜	410
TBC Bank	1754	-84	1912	901
Virgin Money UK	151⅛	+1⅞	218⅛	124¼
Beverages				
Britvic	770	-2½	949½	741
C&C Group	161¼	+1⅛	264¼	159¼
Coca-Cola HBC	1938	-5	2687	1460½
Diageo	3763½xd		4103½	3343
Chemicals				
Croda Intnal	6568xd	-17	8104	10 5908
Elementis	108¼	-1¼	157¼	97
Johnson Matt	1988	+44	2763	1721
Synthomer	166⅛	-6⅛	524½	166⅛
Victrex	1692	-10	2538	1590
Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty	339¼	+⅛	340⅛	215⅞
CRH	3089xd	+32	4002	2756½
Genuit Group	333½xd	+3	739	330½
Grafton Gp	737⅛xd	+6	1381	704
Ibstock	195⅜xd	+¼	217⅞	154
Marshalls	328⅞	+8	807	319
Tyman	210½	+1	443½	209½
Volution	326½	-13½	560	325
Electricity				
Contour Global	253½		258	178
Drax Gp	702xd	-9½	831½	475⅝
SSE	1735½xd	-11	1920	1525
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Halma	2038	-26	3216	1876½
Morgan Advanced	244	+½	392	241½
Oxford Instruments	2030	-60	2665	1760
Renishaw	3484	-36	5480	3444
Spectris	2778	-33	4083	2458
Equity Investment Instruments				
3i Infrastructure	332½	+1½	366½	304
Aberforth Smlr Cos	1186	-2	1550	1144
AJ Bell	277¼	+2¼	426¼	246¼
Alliance Trust	970xd	+2	1078	887
Allianz Tech	230½		370	200
Apax Global	164xd	+⅛	235	157⅛
AVI Global Trust	188	+1	222	172
Baillie Giff Japan	743	-3	1100	662
Bankers InvTst	101⅛	-⅛	125	95½
BBGI Global	170¼xd	+⅛	180⅛	158
Bellevue Hlthcare	174	+3	208	132⅛
BlackRock Smlr	1292	-8	2175	1254
BlkRckWldMining	612xd	+7	792	502
Caledonia Inv	3505	-20	4100	3230
Chrysalis Inv	65⅛	-¼	272	65⅛
City of London IT	401	+1½	425	377
Edin Inv Trust	593	+9	657	573
Edin Wwide	184	+⅝	335	160¼
European Opp	679	-2	891	644
F&C Inv Trust	869	+12	946	770
Fidelity China	238½	-2	342	218½
Fidelity Emg	598½	-⅛	878	587¼
Fidelity Eur	285½	-2	345	267½
Fidelity Spec Val	264	+2½	315	250
Finsbury G&I Tst	823		930	734
GCP Infra Inv	104¼	-¼	118⅛	100¼
Global Smaller	138⅜	+¼	177	134⅜
Greencoat UK	165¼	+½	165¼	129¼
Harbourvest	2100	+20	2940	2000
Henderson Sml Co	781xd	-13	1318	754
Herald Inv Trust	1678	-4	2575	1560
HG Capital Trust	375	-5	454	267½
HICL Infr	176⅜xd	-⅛	183	161
Hipgnosis Songs	101⅛	-1⅛	129¼	101⅛
ICG Enterprise	1046	+6	1314	954
Impax Enviro Mkts	429	-½	583	381½
JPM American	754xd	+13	795	655
JPM Emerg Mkt	105¼	+⅛	137¼	99¼
JPM Euro Disc	380	-2½	582	366½
JPM Japan IT	455½	+1	720	412½
Jupiter Fund	102½	+⅛	265	91⅛
Law Debenture	719	+3	830	709
LXI REIT	148¼	+¼	154	133⅜
M&G	197¼xd	+1⅛	227¼	178¼
Mercantile IT	182	-¼	283	173¼
Molten Ventures	340	-6	1154	326¼
Monks Inv Tst	1035	-14	1450	888
Morgan Sindall	1634	+8	2600	1626
Murray Inc Tst	804xd	+3	934	770
Murray Intl Tst	1234	-8	1320	1076
Ninety One	194¼	+1	277⅜	183¼
Pantheon Intl	262		351	240½
Pershing Square	2860xd	+60	3115	2330
Personal Assets Tr	484½xd	+½	509	473½
Polar Cap Tech	1968	+8	2750	1778
Renewables Infra	145xd	+⅛	147¼	123¼
RIT Cap Partners	2300	+30	2765	2220
Schroder Asia	514	-1	614	498
Schroder Oriental	260½	+½	276	251½
Scot American Inv	475xd	-3½	543	442½
Scottish Mortgage	843⅜	+16⅜	1543½	670⅛
Sequoia Econ Infra	88⅜	+⅛	113⅜	83¼
Smithson Inv	1289	+19	2025	1140
Syncona	185⅛	-4¼	219	157¼
Templeton Em	146¼	-¼	189¼	140⅛
Vietnam Enter	685	+3	791	625
VinaCapital Vietna	491½	+1½	545	454
Witan Invest	220½xd	+1½	257	202
Wwide Healthcare	3380	+25	3810	2825
XP Power	1932xd	+42	5540	1798
Food Producers				
Assoc Brit Foods	1332½	+4	2131	1328½
Cranswick	2940	-164	3820	2918
Greencore Gp	86¼	-2⅛	146⅛	84⅛
Hilton Food Gp	675	-266	1250	675
Premier Foods	104⅜	-1⅛	126¼	98¼
Tate & Lyle	712⅜	+16⅜	906½	696¼
Unilever	3969½	+4	4063½	3328
Forestry & Paper				
Mondi	1473½xd	+231	950½	1309
General Financial				
3i Group	1132	-1	1503½	1059
Ashmore Gp	221⅞	+5¼	365	192
BR Throgmorton	536	-7	1022	533
Brewin Dolphin	513		517	266
Bridgepoint Group	260xd	+11	569	208
Capital Gearing	5070	+10	5180	4905
Close Brothers	1038	+11	1575	987
CMC Markets	228½	+4	317	214½
Coats Group	57⅜	+⅛	81⅜	56¼
Hargrvs Lansdwn	850⅜	+14	1598	762⅜
IG Gp	791½	+4½	857½	648
Integrafin	252¼	+3	602	213
Intermediate Cap	1218½	+½	2379	1218
Intl Public Prtnshps	162⅜	-2¼	174¼	156
Investec	387¼	-1¼	536¼	275⅜
IP Group	70¼xd	+1	141¼	66¼
JTC	777	-10	936	571
London Stock Ex	7802xd	-98	8582	6370
Man Group	245	-1⅛	274⅞	178⅛
OSB Group	530xd	-3	599	418¼
Paragon	498	+7¼	617½	427¼
Petershill Partners	220	+2½	350¼	194¼
Plus500	1661xd	+6	1824	1255½
Provident Financial	181xd	-1⅛	381⅛	166
Quilter	103⅜xd	+⅛	185	96⅜
Rathbone Grp	1836xd	+10	2210	1518
Ruffer Investment	296½	+4½	325	230
Schroders	2586	+40	3837	2546
SDCL Energy	114⅜xd	-¼	125⅜	97¼
Temple Bar	218½xd		254⅜	203⅜
TP ICAP	168¼	+1⅛	172⅜	102½
Health Care Equipment & Services				
Convatec	226⅜xd	-1¼	245¼	166⅜
Mediclinic Intl	495	-¼	501½	286⅜
Smith & Neph	1060	-4	1369	1008
Spire Health	234½	-½	254½	206
Housebuilders				
Barratt Devel	424¼	+17¼	760	406⅛
Bellway	2012	+76	3505	1936
Berkeley Grp	3592	+117	4903	3447
Countryside	255⅛	+9⅛	530	225¼
Crest Nicholson	231⅛	+11⅛	413⅜	220
Persimmon	1452	+31	2883	1421
Redrow	505xd	+30⅛	717¼	470⅛
Taylor Wimpey	107¼	+4¼	178	103⅛
Vistry Group	748	+23	1261½	725
Industrial Transportation				
Clarkson	2710xd	-10	4180	2665
Redde Northgate	322	+2	440½	312
Royal Mail	249⅛	-1½	526¼	249⅛
Industrials				
Bodycote	525½	-6	928	500
Hill & Smith	1026	+22	1866	960
IMI	1130xd	+16	1838	1071
Melrose Ind	111¼	-5	183½	107⅛
RHI Magnesita	1822xd	-11	3702	1729
Rotork	238⅛xd	-4⅛	373⅛	232¼
Smith (DS)	274⅛	+2⅛	453⅛	260⅛
Smiths Gp	1520	+1	1629	1355½
Smurfit Kappa Gp	2900	+12	4168	2623
Spirax-Sarco	10380-220		17135	9130
Vesuvius	346⅜xd	-2⅛	525½	284⅛
Weir Gp	1491½	-4½	1897	1328½
Leisure Goods				
Games Workshp	7095	+170	11210	6005
Watches of Switz	832	-8½	1518	737
Life Insurance				
abrdn	144½xd	+2¼	263⅛	141½
Aviva	442½xd	+5¼	602⅛	382¼
Just Group	73⅛	+1	95⅜	63¼
Legal & General	262⅜xd	+3⅛	307¼	233¼
Phoenix Gp	609¼	+6⅛	701⅛	568¼
Prudential	950¾xd	+12¼	1509	881
St James Place	1093½xd	+3½	1731½	1044
Media				
4imprint	3605xd	+120	4045	2240
Ascential	225⅛	+6⅛	448¼	195
Auto Trader Gp	620¼xd	-2	741¼	499½
Euromny Inst	1448		1466	829
Future	1695	-3	3830	1486
Informa	552⅛	+3⅛	624	464⅛
ITV	64	+1¼	125⅞	61¼
Moneysprmkt.com	186¼	-1⅛	240⅛	167
Pearson	904xd	-¼	923¼	571¼
RELX	2242	-11	2449	2071
Rightmove Group	603	-3⅛	800⅛	531
WPP	769¼	+12⅛	1224	725¼
Mining				
Anglo American	2815½xd	-364	2470½	
Antofagasta	1151½xd	-13	1781½	991⅛
BHP Group	2252½xd	+4½	3019	1835¼
Centamin	88½xd	-1¼	109¼	74⅜
Endeavour Mining	1656xd	-55	2100	1510
Evraz	81		646¼	53⅛
Ferrexpo	155¼	+4⅛	327¼	107
Fresnillo	731¼xd	-3⅛	986¼	622⅛
Glencore	502xd	+8⅛	541½	312
Hochschild Mining	58½xd	-¼	173⅜	58½
Rio Tinto	4770xd	-28	6225	4375½
Nonlife Insurance				
Admiral Gp	2262xd	+64	3524	1729
Beazley	627½	+3	628	370¼
Direct Line Ins	212¼	+½	312¼	193⅜
Hiscox	940⅜xd	+5	990¼	792¼
Lancashire Hldgs	546	+10	611½	346⅜
Oil & Gas Producers				
BP	456½xd	-5¼	463⅜	303¼
Capricorn Energy	233¼	-3¼	242¼	171½
Diversified Energy	130xd	-1¼	142	98½
Energean	1392	-31	1454	792½
Harbour Energy	487⅛xd	-9⅛	530	298½
Shell	2314½xd	-26½	2440	1833⅜
Tullow Oil	48⅞	-2	62¼	39⅛
Oil Equipment & Services				
Wood Gp(J)	141⅛	-2¼	251¼	127⅛
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology				
AstraZeneca	10130	-22	11440	8063
Dechra Pharma	3088	-82	5365	3088
Genus	2762	+78	5750	2234
GSK	1337⅞xd	+5⅜	1810⅛	1332¼
Hikma Pharma	1231½xd	-10½	2474	1231½
Indivior	296⅜		336¼	207⅜
PZ Cussons	192⅛	-¼	239	182¼
Reckitt Benckiser	6372xd	-82	6808	5391
Real Estate				
Assura	62⅛xd	-¼	75⅞	59⅜
Big Yellow Gp	1188	-19	1724	1188
British Land	408¼	+2⅛	556⅜	406⅛
Captl & Count Prop	116¼xd	+1⅛	179¼	115⅛
CLS Hldgs	171⅛	+⅛	235½	171¼
Derwent London	2422xd	+14	3679	2352
Grainger	264⅛	+1¼	319¼	258¼
Grt Portland Est	737		779	700½
Hammerson	21	-⅛	39⅛	19
Land Securities	618⅛xd	-1	813¼	617
LondonMetric Prop	206⅜xd	+1⅛	285¼	201¼
Primary Hlth Prop	130¼	-¼	161⅛	130¼
Safestore Hldgs	968½	-10	1418	968½
Savills	916xd	-7	1450	902
SEGRO	877⅜xd	-12¼	1436½	877⅜
Shaftesbury	403¼	+6¼	662	397
Sirius Real Estate	79⅛	-1	144	78⅛
Supermarket Income	117½	-2½	133	116½
Target Healthcare	106⅜	-¼	119¼	106
TR Property IT	339	-1	504	339
Tritax Big Box	162⅞	+¼	249	158¼
Tritax Eurobox	79¼	-⅜	117¼	79¼
UK Comm Prop	65¼	+¼	93⅜	65
Unite Group	1000	-17	1207	990¼
Urban Logistics	166½	+2	199	118½
Workspace Gp	504	+2	887	498⅛
Retailers				
ASOS	649	-27	3345	649
B&M	345⅛	-1⅛	644	344⅛
Burberry Gp	1729½	-42½	2063	1482
Currys	62¼xd	-1¼	140⅛	58⅛
Dr. Martens	258¼	-1¼	429¼	182⅛
Dunelm Gp	761	+13	1486	670½
Frasers Group	801½	+2	949½	562½
Greggs	1962xd	+3	3416	1804
Howden Joinery	569⅜	-13⅜	975⅛	552⅜
Inchcape	749	+12	928	647
JD Sports Fashion	128¼	+2¼	234	102⅛
Kingfisher	248¼	+4¼	370½	229⅛
Marks & Spencer	115¼	-4½	256⅛	115¼
Moonpig	202¼	+2⅛	384⅛	175⅛
Next	5848	+46	8426	5732
Ocado Gp	650	+26¼	1897½	623¼
Pets at Home Gp	309¼	-1⅛	519	278
Sainsbury(J)	201¼	-1¼	306½	197⅛
SSP Group	224¼	-2¼	303¼	201¼
Tesco	232	-5¼	303⅛	232
WH Smith	1467½	+11	1805½	1311
Software & Computer Services				
Auction Tech	839	+22	1516	749
Aveva Gp	3025	-23	4032	1924
Baltic Classifieds	145xd	+5	253	99¼
Bytes Technology	426⅜		578½	399
Computacenter	2120	-14	2978	2120
Darktrace	382⅜	+1¼	985	287⅜
FDM Group	714xd	+2	1338	712
Kainos Gp	1392	+14	2084	954½
Micro Focus Intl	520¼	+¼	520¼	256¼
NCC Grp	230	+5	285	167⅜
Playtech	454⅜	+2	770	416
Sage Group	718	-4⅜	853¼	595⅛
Softcat	1194	-20	2214	1194
Support Services				
Ashtead Gp	4302	+25	6450	3359
Babcock Intl	321¼	+3¼	380¼	295⅛
Biffa	385¼xd	-8¼	415¼	283
Bunzl	2751	-59	3163	2397
DCC	4835	-61	6486	4750
Diploma	2488	-38	3460	2158
Essentra	194	+4⅛	357	189⅛
Experian	2687	-35	3667	2285
Ferguson	9914	-20	13305	8680
Hays	119⅞	+1½	175⅛	109
Homeserve	1189	+1	1190	608½
Intertek Gp	3946	-19	5782	3873
IWG	136¼	+1⅛	310	135⅛
Mitie Group	74¼	+1½	79¼	46½
Network Int	306	+13¼	371¼	171¼
Pagegroup	400xd	+1¼	680½	383¼
Rentokil Initial	522¼	-14¼	636¼	444½
RS Group	1056	+2	1255	812
Serco	163⅜xd	-1⅛	188¼	121¼
Travis Perkins	832¼	-2⅛	1746	805
Technology Hardware & Equipment				
discoverIE Gp	757	+2	1180	597
Spirent Comms	262xd	+5	298¼	215⅜
Telecoms				
Airtel Africa	139	-⅛	170⅛	93¼
BT Gp	141⅛	+⅜	200⅛	135¼
Helios Towers	124⅜	+2¼	189	110
Telecom Plus	1730	-2	2250	1010
Vodafone Gp	109¼	+2⅛	139½	107
Tobacco				
Br Am Tob	3435	+29½	3628	2512½
Imperial Brands	1912½xd	+10½	1952½	1486
Travel & Leisure				
888 Holdings	117	+⅛	478	116⅜
Carnival	832	+62¼	1766⅜	619⅜
Compass Gp	1925½	+18½	1969½	1440
Dominos Pizza	245¼xd	+1¼	465¼	226⅜
easyJet	359	+12	727⅜	345½
Entain	1233½xd	+31½	2377	1075½
FirstGroup	118½	-4⅛	139½	86⅛
Flutter Ent	10390	+65	15890	7614
Intercontl Htls	4899xd	+86	5338	4193
Intl Cons Airl	108⅜	+1⅛	188	102⅛
Mitchells & Butlers	167¼	+2¼	267¼	149⅛
National Express	186⅛	-3	284¼	166⅛
Trainline	356⅜	-7¼	409	159
TUI AG	139	+6½	343⅛	123½
Wetherspoon (JD)	509	-½	1095	471¼
Whitbread	2688	+19	3438	2431
Wizz Air Hldgs	2078	+54	5398	1695
Utilities				
Centrica	81⅞	-⅛	91	51⅛
National Grid	1034½	-19	1245½	884⅛
Pennon	908½	-30½	1237	908½
Severn Trent	2645	-39	3211	2603
United Utilities	1028½	-10½	1176½	968⅛

*Ex-Dividend

Source: The Press Association

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ROBIN GOODFELLOW	GIMCRACK
1.25 Transfer Affection	1.25 Claretina
2.00 Premier Option	2.00 Reward Smile
2.35 Kerindia	2.35 Prince Of Pillo (nb)
3.10 Gale Force Maya	3.10 Mo Celita
3.45 DANZAN (nap)	3.45 Music Society
4.20 Little Ted	4.20 Ayr Poet
4.50 Mac Ailey	4.50 Albegrey
5.20 Belle Of Annandale	5.20 Red Bond

NEWMARKET – 2.35 BOLT ACTION (nap).
NORTHERNER – 2.00 PRAIRIE FALCON (nap); 5.20 Mister Camacho (nb).

1.25 —VIRGIN BET FILLIES' NURSERY (4) (2-Y-O) £15,000 added (£7,776) 7f 50yds (13)

101 (3) 3108 **IBIZA LOVE 57 (D)** H Palmer 9-9 **B Curtis**
102 (11) 551323 **MISTY BLUES 8 (G)** T Easterby 9-6 **D Allan**
103 (8) 771 **GREYCIOUS ANNA 20 (D) (G)** K R Burke 9-2 **S James**
104 (2) 525 **PURENESS 63 (BF)** G Boughey 9-1 **D Tudhope**
105 (9) 63174 **IATO'S ANGEL 16 (G)** K Dalgleish 8-13 **C Rodriguez**
106 (10) 436422 **TRANSFER AFFECTION 13 (BF)** K Ryan 8-12 **T Eaves**
107 (12) 425214 **LADY LAVINA 28 (P) (D)** C & M Johnston 8-11 **F Norton**
108 (6) 4322 **CAERNARFON 22** M Channon 8-9 **C Beasley**
109 (5) 315052 **CLARETINA 15 (G)** R Fahey 8-7 **C Hardie**
110 (7) 6535 **DAY MEMBER 16 (P)** W Haggas 8-7 **R Scott**
111 (4) 7524 **GRANNY B 39** J J Quinn 8-7 **J Hart**
112 (1) 972732 **SNOW GIRL 11** K Ryan 8-5 **S Gray**
113 (13) 655463 **PLATINUM GIRL 22** T Easterby 8-2 **D Fentiman**

Probable SP: 11-2 Day Member, 6 Claretina, 7 Pureness, Greycious Anna, 8 Misty Blues, Transfer Affection, 10 Lady Lavina, Caernarfon, 12 Granny B.

2.00 —EBF NURSERY (2) (2-Y-O) £18,000 added (£9,277) 6f (10)

201 (4) L1015 **RAMAZAN 30 (D) (GS)** R Fahey 9-9 **Oisin Orr**
202 (10) 715103 **SHANDY STAR 16 (D2)** R Fell 9-7 **C Lee**
203 (5) 2618 **BRAVEHEART BOY 30 (D) (G)** T Easterby 9-5 **D Fentiman**
204 (6) 444302 **JM JUNGLE 16** J J Quinn 9-5 **J Hart**
205 (2) 342 **REWARD SMILE 22 (T)** H Palmer 9-3 **B Curtis**
206 (8) 835135 **PRAIRIE FALCON 3 (G)** M Dods 9-0 **C Beasley**
207 (3) 4515LL **HONOUR YOUR DREAMS 34 (T) (C&D)** A Keatley 8-13 **A Mullen**
208 (7) 822 **PREMIER OPTION 23** T Easterby 8-10 **D Allan**
209 (9) 414321 **DON'T FIGHT IT 17 (G)** K Dalgleish 8-4 **JP Sullivan**
210 (1) 656 **FLYING BARTY 14** K Ryan 8-2 **C Hardie**

Probable SP: 9-2 Prairie Falcon, 5 Ramazan, 6 Reward Smile, Don't Fight It, 7 Shandy Star, Jm Jungle, 8 Premier Option, Braveheart Boy.

2.35 —BRITISH EBF STALLIONS HARRY ROSEBERY STAKES (LISTED) (1) (2-Y-O) £35,500 added (£20,132) 5f (12)

301 (9) 16332 **BOLT ACTION 18 (D)** R Varian 9-5 **B Curtis**
302 (11) 164614 **LOOKING FOR LYNDA 27 (D2)** K R Burke 9-5 **C Lee**
303 (4) 214228 **NEW DEFINITION 13 (V)** J Tate 9-5 **P J McDonald**
304 (10) 114 **PRINCE OF PILLO 5 (CD) (G)** K Dalgleish 9-5 **C Rodriguez**
305 (2) 110558 **REMARKABLE FORCE 29 (P) (D2)** Alice Haynes 9-5 **R Scott**
306 (12) 121337 **ROGUE SPIRIT 30 (D2)** Tom Clover 9-5 **NON RUNNER**
307 (8) 3 **SEANTRABH 12** D Carroll 9-5 **H Shaw**
308 (1) L1857 **THUNDER MOOR 27 (P) (D)** K Ryan 9-5 **D Tudhope**
309 (3) 5192 **CAN TO CAN 27 (D) (G)** C & M Johnston 9-0 **F Norton**
310 (5) 1393 **KERINDIA 15 (D)** M Bell 9-0 **J Hart**
311 (6) 787114 **MISS ATTITUDE 26 (D2BF) (G)** M Channon 9-0 **C Beasley**
312 (7) 195226 **UNION COURT 9 (D2)** E Walker 9-0 **Oisin Orr**

Probable SP: 9-4 Bolt Action, 7-2 Kerindia, 6 Prince Of Pillo, 7 Union Court, 10 Looking For Lynda, 12 Can To Can, 14 Seantrabh, 16 Thunder Moor.

3.10 —ARRAN SCOTTISH SPRINT EBF FILLIES' STAKES (FILLIES' & MARES' LISTED) (1) £47,000 added (£26,654) 5f 110yds (18)

401 (16) 713121 **GALE FORCE MAYA 12 (P) (D11) (GS)** M Dods 6-9-5 **C Beasley**
402 (5) 271095 **GUILDED 9 (V) (C&DD)** K R Burke 3-9-3 **C Lee**
403 (7) 60L418 **TIPPY TOES 19 (D4)** C & M Johnston 3-9-3 **F Norton**
404 (1) 165951 **MISS NAY NEVER 55 (D5)** J J Quinn 4-9-2 **J Hart**
405 (10) 43-L862 **MO CELITA 9 (D6) (GS)** Adrian Nicholls 4-9-2 **B McHugh**
406 (8) 532135 **SOUND OF IONA 9 (C&D2D6BF) (GS)** J Goldie 6-9-2 **P Mulrennan**
407 (9) 282856 **TENAYA CANYON 20 (D3) (G)** E Walker 4-9-2 **P J McDonald**
408 (14) L62249 **VENTURA FLAME 13 (D7) (GS)** K Dalgleish 5-9-2 **C Rodriguez**
409 (4) 283419 **ALIA CHOICE 20 (D2) (G)** K Ryan 3-9-0 **K Stott**
410 (12) 13-4L75 **BARBANERA 20 (D) (S)** R Fahey 3-9-0 **Oisin Orr**
411 (17) 30-0578 **CORAZON 30 (T) (D2)** G Boughey 3-9-0 **S James**
412 (15) 62-7568 **ILLUSTRATING 29 (D2) (GS)** K R Burke 3-9-0 **D Tudhope**
413 (2) 211196 **LULLABY BAY 12 (P) (C&DD2) (S)** K R Burke 3-9-0 **T Eaves**
414 (11) 710434 **MY EYES ADORE YOU 26 (D)** J A Stack (IRE) 3-9-0 **Andrew Slattery**
415 (13) 131125 **PINK CRYSTAL 12 (D3BF2) (G)** W Haggas 3-9-0 **R Scott**
416 (3) 5-91278 **SABLONNE 13 (P) (D2)** J Harrington (IRE) 3-9-0 **C Hardie**
417 (18) 8-1L113 **SANDBECK 30 (D4) (G)** E Bethell 3-9-0 **R Dawson**
418 (6) 231195- **TARDIS 343 (D2)** M Bell 3-9-0 **D Allan**

Probable SP: 9-4 Gale Force Maya, 7 My Eyes Adore You, 8 Tippy Toes, 10 Mo Celita, 12 Pink Crystal, Tardis, Tenaya Canyon, Barbanera, 14 Sablonne.

TRACK FACTS: JACKPOT & PRINCIPAL MEETING. L-H course. GOING: Good-good to soft in places. **STALLS:** Sprint centre; 7f outside; remainder inside. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** Depends on stalls on straight course. **Top jockey:** Paul Mulrennan. **Top trainer:** J Goldie. **Placed in the race last year:** 3.45 Danzan (3rd); Never Dark (4th); 4.20 Little Ted (2nd); 5.20 Eclipse De Lunar (1st). **Headgear first time:** 2.35 Thunder Moor, 3.10 Guilded, Lullaby Bay, 3.45 Tipperary Tiger, 4.20 Hear Me Roar, Time To Rumble, Yellow Bear, 5.20 Brazilian Beach, Eclipse De Lunar.

3.45 —VIRGIN BET AYR BRONZE CUP HANDICAP (2) £30,000 added (£15,462) 6f (25)

501 (8) 184567 **TIPPERARY TIGER 9 (B) (D4) (S)** K R Burke 4-9-12 **P-L Jamin (3)**
502 (7) 264718 **BALLYARE 40 (PT) (D2)** L Russell 5-9-11 **K Stott**
503 (16) 05-9450 **SUMMER SANDS 43 (D) (S)** R Fahey 5-9-11 **B McHugh**
504 (10) 152117 **MONSIEUR KODI 15 (C&DD2) (G)** R Fahey 3-9-10 **Oisin Orr**
505 (22) 11-275L **LE BEAU GARCON 27 (BF2) (G)** M & D Easterby 3-9-10 **P Mulrennan**
506 (18) 20L667 **BLACK FRIDAY 43 (C&D3) (S)** R M Smith 7-9-10 **P Mathers**
507 (1) 958842 **MUSIC SOCIETY 21 (C&DD2) (GS)** T Easterby 7-9-9 **D Allan**
508 (2) 462124 **MATTICE 12 (P) (DBF) (G)** T Easterby 3-9-9 **D Fentiman**
509 (23) 532104 **DANZAN 21 (P) (D3) (GS)** T Easterby 7-9-8 **J Hart**
510 (15) 7-31000 **SHOWTIME MAHOMES 40 (D) (G)** G Tuer 3-9-8 **O Stammers (3)**
511 (13) 25612L **TOTHENINES 63 (D)** K R Burke 3-9-8 **C Lee**
512 (14) 184118 **INTERVENTION (8lbex) 9 (HP) (D5) (G)** M Appleby 5-9-8 **A Farragher (5)**
513 (17) 322694 **THE THIN BLUE LINE 26 (D)** K Dalgleish 4-9-7 **C Rodriguez**
514 (25) 90212L **FAST AND LOOSE 12 (P) (D) (G)** K Ryan 3-9-6 **T Eaves**
515 (12) 1-L03D5 **BELTANE 28 (C&D) (S)** K Dalgleish 3-9-6 **S Gray**
516 (21) 421LL6 **CHOOKIE DUNEDIN 13 (C&DCD3) (S)** K Dalgleish 7-9-5 **Ryan Sexton (5)**
517 (19) 41261 **GRANTLEY HALL 37 (D) (G)** M & D Easterby 3-9-5 **C Beasley**
518 (24) 128949 **JORDAN ELECTRICS 3 (C&D2D3) (G)** Ewan Whillans 6-9-5 **R Scott**
519 (6) 911035 **LATE ARRIVAL 20 (D3BF)** M & D Easterby 5-9-5 **Joanna Mason**
520 (5) 631 **BEATTIE IS BACK 224** R Fahey 3-9-5 **B Garritty**
521 (3) L92L92 **NEVER DARK 8 (P) (S)** I Jardine 5-9-4 **D Tudhope**
522 (4) 072463 **ADMIRALITY 48 (D2BF2) (G)** R Fell 8-9-4 **B Curtis**
523 (20) 4-35816 **VINCE LOMBARDI (5lbex) 22 (D2BF) (S)** G Tuer 3-9-4 **S James**
524 (11) 49L36L **SECRETINTHEPARK 38 (V) (D2) (G)** R Menzies 12-9-3 **P J McDonald**
525 (9) 33-165L **MONICA 22 (P) (D) (G)** I Jardine 3-9-3 **A Mullen**

Probable SP: 15-2 Music Society, 8 Mattice, 10 Admirality, The Thin Blue Line, 12 Monsieur Kodi, Grantley Hall, 14 Beattie Is Back, Vince Lombardi.

4.20 —REMS GROUP 'JUSTIN FORBES' HANDICAP (DIV 1) (5) £8,000 added (£3,996) 1m (14)

601 (11) 112118 **TEMPER TRAP 9 (C&DD3) (GS)** T Easterby 5-10-0 **D Fentiman**
602 (14) 3-48454 **MI CAPRICHO 60 (C&DCD2) (G)** K Dalgleish 7-9-12 **C Rodriguez**
603 (7) 5-1L568 **YELLOW BEAR 30 (B) (D) (S)** D Carroll 3-9-10 **H Shaw**
604 (10) 68-4557 **GOLDEN VALOUR 22 (P)** R M Smith 6-9-10 **S James**
605 (4) 121133 **FLYLIKEANEAGLE 14 (BT) (CD) (GS)** L Russell 5-9-10 **K Stott**
606 (9) 38/15-45 **HEAR ME ROAR 14 (P) (G)** M Dods 4-9-9 **C Beasley**
607 (8) 6-445L **KALAHARI PRINCE 39** K Ryan 3-9-8 **T Eaves**
608 (12) 431431 **AYR POET 16 (P) (C&DC) (S)** J Goldie 7-9-7 **P Mulrennan**
609 (2) 1863L2 **LITTLE TED 17 (P) (D2)** T Easterby 5-9-6 **D Allan**
610 (1) 81L272 **DO I DREAM 21 (D) (S)** B Haslam 3-9-5 **A Mullen**
611 (6) 4L434L **NINKY NONK 43** K Dalgleish 3-9-2 **J Hart**
612 (13) 54412L **CHINESE SPIRIT 17 (C&DCD2BF) (GS)** Miss L Perratt 8-9-0 **G Lee**
613 (5) 412667 **TIME TO RUMBLE 22 (V) (S)** R Fahey 3-8-12 **Oisin Orr**
614 (3) 56LL26 **ZUMAATY 23** I Jardine 4-8-9 **C Lee**

Probable SP: 5 Ayr Poet, 11-2 Flylikeaneagle, 6 Temper Trap, 7 Little Ted, 8 Mi Capricho, Do I Dream, 12 Hear Me Roar, 14 Golden Valour, Chinese Spirit, Yellow Bear, 16 Ninky Nonk, 20 Zumaaty, Kalahari Prince, Time To Rumble.

4.50 —REMS GROUP 'JUSTIN FORBES' HANDICAP (DIV 2) (5) £8,000 added (£3,996) 1m (14)

1 (2) 540313 **ALPINE SIERRA 104 (P) (DBF)** K Dalgleish 4-9-12 **S James**
2 (13) 017744 **FROG AND TOAD 35 (PT) (D) (G)** D O'Meara 4-9-12 **D Tudhope**
3 (12) L44 **MENELAUS 32** M & D Easterby 3-9-10 **Joanna Mason**
4 (1) 417443 **ALBEGREY 22 (D)** T Easterby 3-9-10 **D Allan**
5 (11) 5-1145L **HA LONG BAY 77 (D) (G)** A Keatley 3-9-9 **Ryan Sexton (5)**
6 (6) 34-16LL **ROYAL REGENT 67 (P) (C&DC5) (GS)** R M Smith 10-9-8 **P Mathers**
7 (7) 404614 **ENGLES ROCK 44 (P) (C&DD2) (S)** L Russell 6-9-8 **P Mulrennan**
8 (8) 2L4568 **JOMONT 28 (P)** M Dods 5-9-7 **C Beasley**
9 (5) 143123 **COBRA KAI 21 (CDBF2)** K Dalgleish 3-9-6 **B Garritty**
10 (14) 433122 **MONHAMMER 22 (BF)** Miss L Perratt 4-9-4 **Mark Winn (7)**
11 (9) 6L6821 **STAR OF ST JAMES 22 (D4)** R Fahey 5-9-0 **Oisin Orr**
12 (4) 132114 **RETIREMENT BECKONS 22 (C&D2D4BF) (GS)** Miss L Perratt 7-8-13 **H Russell (3)**
13 (3) 632584 **MAC AILEY 16 (B) (D) (S)** T Easterby 6-8-9 **D Fentiman**
14 (10) 23761U **BOBBY SHAFTOE 43 (B)** J Goldie 4-8-9 **Amie Waugh (5)**

Probable SP: 10-3 Alpine Sierra, 7 Cobra Kai, Frog And Toad, 15-2 Monhammer, 8 Albegrey, 10 Retirement Beckons, Star Of St James, 12 Ha Long Bay.

5.20 —TENNENT'S LAGER HANDICAP (5) £8,000 added (£3,996) 1m 5f 26yds (15)

1 (3) 315532 **GIFT OF RAAJ 13** R Fell 7-10-2 **B Curtis**
2 (2) 843231 **RED BOND 13 (P)** K Dalgleish 6-9-13 **C Rodriguez**
3 (8) 351234 **GRACES QUEST 49 (BF2) (G)** J Goldie 4-9-12 **P Mulrennan**
4 (6) 487 **AIN'T NO SUNSHINE 16** K Dalgleish 6-9-12 **Oisin Orr**
5 (11) 0-72131 **SHIMMERING SANDS 29 (G)** M & D Easterby 3-9-11 **S Gray**
6 (13) 0-L7636 **EBONY MAW 48** Ewan Whillans 5-9-11 **R Scott**
7 (1) 41L7L2 **BRAZILIAN BEACH 17 (B) (BF) (S)** T Easterby 3-9-8 **T Eaves**
8 (15) 252423 **BELLE OF ANNANDALE 39** K Dalgleish 3-9-8 **J Hart**
9 (9) 0-44223 **MISTER CAMACHO 21** M & D Easterby 3-9-7 **C Beasley**
10 (5) 117L64 **FLYING MOON 28 (C5) (GS)** R M Smith 6-9-6 **K Stott**
11 (12) 30LL34 **ECLIPSE DE LUNAR 28 (BT) (C&DC) (GS)** T Easterby 4-9-6 **D Allan**
12 (7) 7L3267 **TAXMEIFYOUCAN J15 (V) (S)** K Dalgleish 8-9-1 **B Garritty**
13 (4) 473222 **VALLEY OF FLOWERS 16 (H) (BF)** J Coward 4-8-11 **Joanna Mason**
14 (14) 5L5316 **AIGHEAR 17 (S)** J Goldie 4-8-11 **Amie Waugh (5)**
15 (10) 053644 **PENELOPEBLUEYES 34** A Keatley 3-8-4 **A Mullen**

Probable SP: 9-2 Shimmering Sands, 7 Graces Quest, Mister Camacho, Gift Of Raaj, Red Bond, 10 Flying Moon, Eclipse De Lunar, Belle Of Annandale.

Longest travellers: My Eyes Adore You (3.10) & Sablonne (3.10) Ireland; Caernarfon (1.25) & Miss Attitude (2.35) 370 miles. **Drop in Class:** 1.25 Misty Blues is down 2 grades on last run (Class 2 to Class 4); Iato's Angel (2); 2.35 Prince Of Pillo (2). **First run since wind surgery:** None today.

NEWTON ABBOT SSR

ROBIN GOODFELLOW	GIMCRACK
1.35 Mr Yeats	1.35 Mr Yeats
2.10 Bagheera Ginge	2.10 Bagheera Ginge
2.45 Byzantine Empire	2.45 Mascat
3.20 Nifty Getaway	3.20 Maire's Dream
3.55 Appreciate	3.55 Appreciate
4.30 Joey Steel	4.30 Minella Voucher
5.00 Letterston Lady	5.00 Charming Berry

1.35 —RACING PARTNERSHIP TRP CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (4) £8,600 added (£4,302) 3m 2f 105yds (7)

1 72L-232 **ART OF ILLUSION 24 (P)** W Greatrex 5-12-0 **C Quinn (6)**
2 223231 **MR YEATS (7lbex) 11 (P) (C&D) (G)** M Harris 5-12-0 **B Harris (8)**
3 4L-3224 **BEN LILLY 81 (B)** D Pipe 5-11-13 **F Gillard (3)**
4 1-L2124 **JONY MAX 18 (T)** Christian Williams 7-11-13 **E Collier (8)**
5 111-3LL **ESPINATOR 49 (C&DC) (S)** A Wintle 8-11-8 **K Brogan**
6 60-11LL **BALLYMILAN 24 (P) (S)** N Mulholland 7-11-7 **T Doggrell (6)**
7 F2F2PP- **HO QUE OUI 220 (S)** Alexandra Dunn 5-11-2 **P Armson**

Probable SP: 11-8 Mr Yeats, 4 Art Of Illusion, 5 Ballymilan, 6 Jony Max, 7 Ben Lilly, 14 Espinator.

2.10 —DEVONDALE ELECTRICAL NOVICES' HURDLE (4) £7,500 added (£4,084) 2m 5f 122yds (9)

1 5L-2132 **TIGER ORCHID 29** Dr R Newland 7-11-7 **NON RUNNER**
2 321 **BAGHEERA GINGE 25** N Twiston-Davies 4-11-4 **S Twiston-Davies**
3 5412-U **HARLEM SOUL 13 (S)** Syd Hosie 4-11-4 **J Best**
4 PP51-P **COME ON PADDY MAC 128 (P)** Mrs L Young 6-11-0 **M Bastyan**
5 6L5/4-# **LUNCHABLE BOB 461** P Henderson 7-11-0 **T J O'Brien**
6 FF2-F34 **SEPARATE WAYS 74** D Brace 6-11-0 **NON RUNNER**
7 35292/F **TIME FLIES BY 49** N Henderson 7-11-0 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
8 F3- **DAN DALY 180** Christian Williams 4-10-11 **J Tudor**
9 5-P **SANS OF GOLD 137** J Frost 4-10-11 **A Cheleda (5)**

Probable SP: 11-8 Time Flies By, 7-4 Bagheera Ginge, 4 Harlem Soul, 16 Lunchable Bob, 20 Come On Paddy Mac, Dan Daly.

2.45 —TORBAY MEDIA NOVICES' CHASE (3) £13,400 added (£6,535) 2m 75yds (4)

1 53L-11L **BYZANTINE EMPIRE 17 (T) (D2BF)** F O'Brien 5-12-0 **P Brennan**
2 13FF1L- **GENI DE LA COUR 153** Syd Hosie 6-11-4 **J Best**
3 138-12 **MASCAT F18 (PT) (BF)** Joe Tizzard 5-11-4 **B J Powell**
4 1-31117 **NOAHTHIRTYTWORED F22 (T)** A West 6-11-4 **L Edwards**

Probable SP: 4-5 Byzantine Empire, 15-8 Mascat, 6 Geni De La Cour, 20 Noahthirtytwored.

3.20 —DEVONDALE ELECTRICAL MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (4) £7,500 added (£4,084) 2m 167yds (8)

1 6/6240-3 **DIV INE TARA 16** F O'Brien 7-11-0 **C Brace**
2 F- **KAY'S LIGHT 175** P Henderson 5-11-0 **T J O'Brien**
3 1L/223- **LADY JANE P 245** A Wintle 6-11-0 **B Poste**
4 3L# **MAIRE'S DREAM 24** O Murphy 5-11-0 **S Bowen**
5 P6 **MARTHA BURELL 98** Miss J Du Plessis 7-11-0 **H Kimber (5)**
6 P/F319-# **NIFTY GETAWAY 188** A Watson 6-11-0 **G Sheehan**
7 R36 **WRAP YOUR WINGS 27** J Frost 7-11-0 **J Best**
8 1- **YA KNOW YASEFF 180** D Pipe 5-11-0 **T Scudamore**

Probable SP: 9-4 Lady Jane P, 5-2 Nifty Getaway, 11-4 Ya Know Yaseff, 5 Div Ine Tara, 10 Maire's Dream.

TRACK FACTS: **L-H course. GOING:** Good to soft-soft in places. **Placed in the race last year:** 4.30 Joey Steel (1st). **Top jockey:** Tom O'Brien. **Headgear first time:** 2.10 Come On Paddy Mac, 2.45 Mascat. **Longest traveller:** Millies Mite (3.55) 227 miles. **Drop in Class:** 1.35 Mr Yeats is down 2 grades on last run (Class 2 to Class 4). **First run since wind surgery:** 3.55 Opening Bid. **Top trainer:** F O'Brien.

3.55 —TALK TIDY HANDICAP HURDLE (5) £6,110 added (£2,941) 2m 167yds (10)

1 1LPL36- **OPENING BID 148 (H) (C&D)** C Down 7-12-2 **J M Davies**
2 08324-2 **BENANDGONE 134** B Barr 5-12-0 **T Doggrell (7)**
3 42243L **KOLISI 24 (TV)** D Pipe 4-11-11 **T Scudamore**
4 111122 **APPRECIATE F34 (T) (C&DBF2)** M Harris 4-11-11 **M Bastyan**
5 65126-F **GAVIN F45 (H)** Joe Ponting 4-11-8 **D Burton (5)**
6 4534P-L **BEGIN THE LUCK 116 (H)** B Barr 6-11-4 **A Cheleda (5)**
7 843-BP3 **MILLIES MITE 29 (T)** J Best & K Jewell 6-10-12 **T Cannon**
8 9116F5- **GOOD IMPRESSION F22 (S)** B J Llewellyn 7-10-8 **B R Jones**
9 L3L8-31 **CANAL ROCKS F45 (PT) (S)** B J Llewellyn 6-10-2 **Charlie Price (3)**
10 4L-P79L **TIFFANY ROSE 13 (H)** R Stephens 6-10-2 **Sean Houlihan**

Probable SP: 5-2 Appreciate, 9-2 Canal Rocks, 11-2 Benandgone, 13-2 Millies Mite, 7 Kolisi, 10 Gavin, 12 Begin The Luck, 14 Good Impression.

4.30 —WATCH FREE RACE REPLAYS ON ATTHERACES.COM HANDICAP CHASE (4) £9,400 added (£4,357) 3m 1f 170yds (7)

1 PP3P-22 **L'AIR DU VENT 29 (PT) (S)** Joe Tizzard 8-12-2 **B J Powell**
2 44-51LL **AYE AYE CHARLIE 23** Christian Williams 10-11-13 **E Collier (7)**
3 11L6LL **D'JANGO 17 (BT) (S)** D Pipe 9-11-12 **T Scudamore**
4 1FLFPL- **THE COMPOSEUR 230** Jonjo O'Neill 7-11-11 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
5 4522-2L **MISS JEANNE MOON 29 (P) (BF)** N Mulholland 8-11-11 **S Twiston-Davies**
6 4-22241 **MINELLA VOUCHER 11 (PT) (C&D) (S)** Alexandra Dunn 11-10-7 **Toby Wynne (7)**
7 16-3LP2 **JOEY STEEL 11 (C&D) (S)** Christian Williams 9-10-7 **J Tudor**

Probable SP: 5-2 Minella Voucher, 7-2 Joey Steel, 11-2 Miss Jeanne Moon.

5.00 —SKY SPORTS RACING ON SKY 415 OPEN NH FLAT RACE (5) £4,999 added (£2,722) 2m 167yds (6)

1 5-P2 **EIRE STREET 68** T Gallagher 5-11-0 **Mr J Reddington (7)**
2 **ALWAYS BUSY** Christian Williams 4-10-12 **J Tudor**
3 2 **CHARMING BERRY 116** Alex French 4-10-12 **J Quinlan**
4 **COMME SEA COMME CA** R Bandey 4-10-12 **H Bannister**
5 3-21 **LETTERSTON LADY 24** P Bowen 4-10-12 **S Bowen**
6 F- **BELLISSIMO MILAN 156** N Mitchell 6-10-7 **F Lambert (7)**

Probable SP: 7-4 Eire Street, 9-4 Letterston Lady, 4 Charming Berry.

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KEMPTON RTV

ROBIN GOODFELLOW	GIMCRACK
4.40 Alnilam	4.40 Alnilam
5.10 Hexameter	5.10 Courage Mon Ami
5.45 Love Getaway	5.45 Love Getaway
6.15 Solar Orbiter	6.15 Shin Saw Gyi
6.45 Global Warning	6.45 Prenup
7.15 Mukha Magic	7.15 Pons Aelius
7.45 Plastic Paddy	7.45 Dubai Immo
8.15 Rolypolymoly	8.15 Rose Camira

4.40 —NOVICE STAKES (5) £6,800 added (£3,672) 1m (14)

1 (2) 3-6 **MUTALAAQY 13** A Carson 4-9-8 **Jimmy Quinn**
2 (3) **ALNILAM** C Appleby 3-9-4 **R Kingscote**
3 (6) 0L **ASTRONOMIC 22 (BT)** Darryll Holland 3-9-4 **J Haynes**
4 (7) 4 **CENTRAL HALL 22** S & E Crisford 3-9-4 **J Mitchell**
5 (10) 73 **JACK SPAROWE 23 (H)** J Butler 3-9-4 **G Wood**
6 (13) 5- **MELFET 275** J & T Gosden 3-9-4 **R Havlin**
7 (12) 52 **REGAL RAMBLER 22** B Meehan 3-9-4 **G Rooke**
8 (4) 9 **ROARING RIVER 22 (H)** Peter Charalambous & James Clutterbuck 3-9-4 **T Hammer Hansen**
9 (14) **CENDRILLON** Matt Crawley 4-9-3 **C Noble**
10 (1) 4 **BIBURYINMAY 37** J Gallagher 3-8-13 **N Currie**
11 (5) **BLUE DAISY** G Boughey 3-8-13 **P Cosgrave**
12 (8) 5-8 **MUMINAMILLION 14** R Teal 3-8-13 **F Larson (5)**
13 (11) 36 **PINK HAZE 14** D M Simcock 3-8-13 **D E Hogan**
14 (9) L **QUEEN OF IPANEMA 13** G Boughey 3-8-13 **E J Walsh**

Probable SP: 3 Melfet, 10-3 Regal Rambler, 7-2 Central Hall, 9-2 Alnilam, 10 Blue Daisy, 14 Pink Haze, Muminamillion.

5.10 —EBF NOVICE STAKES (4) £9,900 added (£5,346) 1m 3f 219yds (11)

1 (8) **FLOY JOY J100 (BF)** S Pearce 6-9-11 **J Haynes**
2 (1) 556- **GALILEO IMPACT 426** Sir M Prescott 4-9-6 **T Hammer Hansen**
3 (3) 56 **BYKER 49** R Hannon 3-9-4 **S Hitchcott**
4 (10) **COURAGE MON AMI** J & T Gosden 3-9-4 **R Havlin**
5 (6) 73 **STAR LEGEND 16** W Haggas 3-9-4 **S Donohoe**
6 (2) 5 **STONKING 21** H Main 3-9-4 **J Bryan**
7 (4) 9 **TRADESMAN 49** D M Simcock 3-9-4 **P Cosgrave**
8 (5) 95 **WANNABE BRAVE 16** J Fanshawe 3-9-4 **B Sayette (3)**
9 (9) 32 **FIREBOLT 32** M Bell 3-8-13 **C Fallon**
10 (7) 224 **HEXAMETER 20** R Varian 3-8-13 **J Mitchell**
11 (11) 9- **READY TO SHINE 332** S & E Crisford 3-8-13 **R Kingscote**

Probable SP: 2 Hexameter, 4 Star Legend, 11-2 Courage Mon Ami, 7 Firebolt, 8 Byker, 10 Ready To Shine.

5.45 —NURSERY (6) (2-Y-O) £6,000 added (£2,916) 7f (14)

1 (9) 231 **MENALIPPE (6lbex) 10 (P) (D)** J Ferguson 9-13 **T Fisher (7)**
2 (13) 678 **LOVE GETAWAY 39** R Varian 9-9 **J Mitchell**
3 (1) 563 **LA MIA DUTCHESSA 28** D Loughnane 9-9 **S Cherchi (3)**
4 (3) L26 **ROWDOWN ROZA 4** M Usher 9-8 **C Bennett**
5 (4) 8L4 **STINTINO SUNSET 23** J Feilden 9-8 **D E Hogan**
6 (11) 6L3 **WILDE AND DANDY 44** M Bell 9-7 **N Callan**
7 (12) 0L0 **CLASSIC ORDER 15 (B)** R Beckett 9-6 **H Crouch**
8 (2) 958 **UNION JOY 35** H Palmer 9-1 **C Fallon**
9 (14) L72 **BELLA KOPELLA 14 (T)** N Tinkler 8-13 **NON RUNNER**
10 (5) LL7 **LOOE P LOOE 14 (B)** R Hannon 8-13 **S Hitchcott**
11 (8) LL0 **MR POSTMAN 105** A West 8-12 **T Ladd**
12 (6) 880 **GOBLET OF FIRE 20** N Tinkler 8-12 **R Kingscote**
13 (7) 9LL **BAILEYS SHOWTIME 31 (B)** Miss A Murphy 8-12 **T Hammer Hansen**
14 (10) 743 **DRUM BRAE BOY 14** R Eddery 8-12 **F Larson (5)**

Probable SP: 9-2 Menalippe, 13-2 Love Getaway, Drum Brae Boy, 8 Wilde And Dandy.

6.15 —NOVICE STAKES (5) £6,800 added (£3,672) 6f (12)

1 (9) 1 **SOLAR ORBITER 14 (D)** R Varian 3-9-11 **J Mitchell**
2 (7) **ANGEL OF TRAFALGAR** Tom Clover 3-9-4 **R Havlin**
3 (4) **BOARHUNT** M Appleby 3-9-4 **T Ladd**
4 (5) L5 **FISCAL POLICY 10 (T)** D & C Kubler 3-9-4 **D E Hogan**
5 (8) 8 **IMPRINT 23** M Rimell 3-9-4 **R Clutterbuck (3)**
6 (12) 69 **LORD STREET 23 (P)** R Teal 3-9-4 **F Larson (5)**
7 (1) 7L- **ROBS SECRET 300** G L Moore 3-9-4 **T P Queally**
8 (3) **SPIRIT OF CAHALA** R Teal 3-9-4 **C Fallon**
9 (11) 9L **WOE BETIDE 25** J Boyle 3-9-4 **J F Egan**
10 (6) 8-L **BLACKBIRD POWER 23 (H)** A Balding 3-8-13 **Jason Watson**
11 (10) **PUSSYCAT EYES** S & E Crisford 3-8-13 **R Kingscote**
12 (2) 22 **SHIN SAW GYI 232** G Scott 3-8-13 **B Sayette (3)**

Probable SP: 4-5 Solar Orbiter, 7-2 Pussycat Eyes, 7 Shin Saw Gyi, 12 Angel Of Trafalgar, 16 Fiscal Policy.

TRACK FACTS: R-H Polytrack course. GOING: Standard to slow. **STALLS:** Inside. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** Low. **Top trainer:** J & T Gosden. **Headgear first time:** 4.40 Roaring River, 5.45 Baileys Showtime, Classic Order, Looe P Looe, 6.15 Blackbird Power, Lord Street, 7.15 High Wells, Luttrell Lad, 8.15 Blenheim Belle. **Drop in Class:** 4.40 Muminamillion is down 2 grades on last run (Class 3 to Class 5); Pink Haze (2); 5.45 Classic Order (2); Mr Postman (4); 6.45 Unsung Hero (2); 7.15 Pons Aelius (2); 7.45 Taravara (2); Cabinet Maker (3); Snapcracklepop (2).

6.45 —HANDICAP (5) £8,000 added (£3,996) 7f (11)

1 (6) 982 **GLOBAL WARNING 34 (D2BF)** J Butler 6-10-2 **G Wood**
2 (2) LL9 **FULL INTENTION 23 (P) (C&DD6)** S Pearce 8-10-1 **J Mitchell**
3 (10) 155 **GRANARY QUEEN 25 (P) (D3)** E J-Houghton 4-10-0 **Georgia Dobie (3)**
4 (11) L23 **PRENUP 39 (BF)** H Morrison 3-9-13 **B Sayette (3)**
5 (1) 364 **DION BAKER 21 (P)** M Wigham 3-9-13 **P Cosgrave**
6 (8) 321 **FALESIA BEACH 18 (D)** J Portman 3-9-10 **R Clutterbuck (3)**
7 (4) 795 **MUMAYAZ 14 (T) (D2)** M Loughnane 3-9-6 **R Kingscote**
8 (7) 1L0 **MUST BE ROYALE 19 (D)** M Appleby 4-9-6 **Jason Watson**
9 (5) 329 **UNSUNG HERO 15** H Main 3-9-5 **C Fallon**
10 (9) 708 **TWILIGHT REVENGE 49 (HP)** M Usher 3-9-1 **C Bennett**
11 (3) 88-5 **HINES 118** A West 3-9-0 **J Haynes**

Probable SP: 5-2 Falesia Beach, 7-2 Global Warning, 9-2 Prenup, 10 Unsung Hero, Granary Queen.

7.15 —HANDICAP (4) £11,000 added (£5,616) 1m 7f 218yds (10)

1 (9) 111 **MUKHA MAGIC 22 (BT) (D2)** G Kelleway 6-10-2 **T Fisher (7)**
2 (7) 016 **SMART CHAMPION 44 (H) (D2)** D M Simcock 7-10-2 **S Osborne (3)**
3 (5) 1P8 **PHOENIX AQUILUS 14 (D)** S Durack 5-10-1 **P Cosgrave**
4 (10) 146 **SEVEN POCKETS 22 (CBF)** R Varian 5-10-1 **J Mitchell**
5 (6) 155 **HIGH WELLS 35 (TV) (C&D)** F O'Brien 8-10-0 **G Rooke**
6 (1) 245 **ARABESCATO 12 (D2)** J Butler 5-9-13 **N Callan**
7 (3) 437 **LUTTRELL LAD 49 (P)** P Hobbs 6-9-13 **T P Queally**
8 (4) 223 **PONS AELIUS 13** C & M Johnston 3-9-5 **R Kingscote**
9 (2) LL5 **GENERAL ZOFF 14 (D3)** W Muir & C Grassick 7-9-3 **S Cherchi (3)**
10 (8) 422 **MOUNTAIN ROAD 9 (H)** D M Simcock 3-9-3 **S Donohoe**

Probable SP: 3 Mountain Road, 7-2 Mukha Magic, 6 Seven Pockets, Luttrell Lad, 7 Pons Aelius, 10 Arabescato.

7.45 —HANDICAP (5) £8,000 added (£3,996) 1m (14)

1 (14) 511 **PLASTIC PADDY (5lbex) 8 (D4)** M Appleby 4-10-2 **F Larson (5)**
2 (11) 892 **MILLTOWN STAR 18** J Osborne 5-9-11 **S Osborne (3)**
3 (7) 15L **ALPHA KING 21** Peter Charalambous & James Clutterbuck 4-9-10 **P Cosgrave**
4 (10) 3-46 **TARAVARA 15** S Pearce 4-9-10 **J Mitchell**
5 (4) 44L **RAQRAAQ 86** P Chamings 4-9-8 **C Fallon**
6 (6) 753 **LOVE DREAMS 40 (D)** M Blake 8-9-8 **H Crouch**
7 (1) 51L **CABINET MAKER 13 (C&D2D)** C & M Johnston 3-9-7 **R Kingscote**
8 (2) 46L **DUBAI IMMO 28 (PT)** M Botti 3-9-7 **S Cherchi (3)**
9 (13) L2L **SWASHBUCKLER 57** T Lacey 3-9-6 **R Havlin**
10 (9) 418 **SNAPCRACKLEPOP 15 (D2)** W Muir & C Grassick 3-9-6 **B Sayette (3)**
11 (8) L83 **VITALLINE 16 (P) (C2)** K Burke 4-9-5 **T Greatrex**
12 (12) L24 **KING CABO 31 (H) (C&D)** L Dace 3-9-5 **C Bennett**
13 (5) 569 **DYNAKITE 41 (C&D2)** L Carter 4-9-5 **N Currie**
14 (3) 749 **PIFFLE 41** E Walker 3-9-4 **G Downing**

Probable SP: 11-4 Plastic Paddy, 7 Milltown Star, 15-2 Snapcracklepop, 8 Dubai Immo, 10 Taravara.

8.15 —HANDICAP (6) £6,000 added (£2,916) 1m 2f 219yds (14)

1 (2) 647 **CULTURE J73 (C&DC2D)** T Ward 6-10-0 **H Crouch**
2 (1) 1-66 **ALICE KITTY 38 (T)** Matt Crawley 4-9-12 **C Noble**
3 (4) 584 **ARAB CINDER 31** W Knight 3-9-9 **H Turner**
4 (13) 645 **VELVET AND STEEL 16** P Chamings 4-9-8 **C Bennett**
5 (12) L46 **QEYAADY 17** P Phelan 4-9-8 **J F Egan**
6 (6) 545 **BIG WING 32** L Carter 5-9-7 **Ethan Jones (7)**
7 (8) 436 **ROLYPOLYMOLY J16** A West 3-9-7 **R Havlin**
8 (7) 77-L **SAUSALITO 18** G L Moore 3-9-7 **T P Queally**
9 (9) 753 **ROSE CAMIRA 22 (BF2)** C Wall 3-9-7 **N Callan**
10 (5) 36L **KING OF THE KIPPAX 29** M Bell 3-9-6 **D E Hogan**
11 (3) 260 **GOLDSMITH 55 (H) (BF)** D Menuisier 3-9-5 **B Sayette (3)**
12 (11) 135 **OVERSTATE 41 (V)** M Murphy & M Keady 3-9-4 **T Fisher (7)**
13 (14) 934 **SHOWMAN 20** H Morrison 3-9-3 **R Kingscote**
14 (10) 368 **BLENHEIM BELLE 46 (P)** T Ward 3-9-2 **J Mitchell**

Probable SP: 9-2 Rose Camira, 11-2 Goldsmith, Arab Cinder, 13-2 Rolypolymoly, 15-2 Showman, 10 Qeyaady.

Longest travellers: Pons Aelius (7.15) & Cabinet Maker (7.45) 245 miles. **First run since wind surgery:** 5.10 Floy Joy. **Top jockey:** Robert Havlin.

NEWBURY RTV

ROBIN GOODFELLOW	GIMCRACK
1.07 Lajooje	1.07 Lajooje
1.43 Calypso	1.43 Skysail
2.18 Crystallium	2.18 Crystallium
2.53 Strawberry Belle	2.53 Haughty
3.28 Highbank	3.28 HIGHBANK (nap)
4.03 Jumby (nb)	4.03 Tacarib Bay
4.35 Mahrajaan	4.35 Goolwa
5.05 Vee Sight	5.05 Vee Sight

NEWMARKET – 5.05 Secret Box (nb)

1.07 —EBF MAIDEN STAKES (DIV 1) (4) (2-Y-O) £10,000 added (£5,400) 6f (16)

1 (13) 6 **AJJAJ 21** R Hannon 9-7 **P Dobbs**
2 (7) L **ALASKAN 32 (T)** C Hills 9-7 **R Hornby**
3 (16) 74 **DANCE ACCLAIM 20** E J-Houghton 9-7 **C Bishop**
4 (11) 46 **DANCING GYPSY 14** J G O'Shea 9-7 **Gina Mangan (5)**
5 (9) **EL HABANO** W Muir & C Grassick 9-7 **H Doyle**
6 (14) 88 **ENGELBERT 20 (T)** J Ferguson 9-7 **D Muscutt**
7 (1) 260 **KESSAAR POWER 20** J S Moore 9-7 **T Marquand**
8 (4) 2 **LAJOOJE 22** Owen Burrows 9-7 **R L Moore**
9 (5) 97 **RAJWAAN 28** A Balding 9-7 **D Probert**
10 (12) L5 **RED FORT 15** R Hannon 9-7 **C Shepherd**
11 (8) 6 **TAFREEJ 15** W Haggas 9-7 **J Crowley**
12 (10) **TOUGH ENOUGH (H)** J Tate 9-7 **Rossa Ryan**
13 (2) 3 **VERDANSK 78** C Cox 9-7 **A Kirby**
14 (3) 59 **WADI BANI 52** S Durack 9-7 **NON RUNNER**
15 (6) **MANY RIVERS** S Kirk 9-2 **D O'Neill**
16 (15) **ON THE OTHER HAND** J Fox 9-2 **L Keniry**

Probable SP: 9-4 Lajooje, 7-2 Verdansk, 8 Dance Acclaim, 10 Tafreej, Dancing Gypsy, 12 Kessaar Power, Ajjaj.

1.43 —EBF MAIDEN STAKES (DIV 2) (4) (2-Y-O) £10,000 added (£5,400) 6f (16)

1 (1) 92 **ACAI 15** C Cox 9-7 **A Kirby**
2 (2) **BE FRANK** H Candy 9-7 **D O'Neill**
3 (7) **CALYPSO** J Ferguson 9-7 **D Muscutt**
4 (9) 84 **DARK TROOPER 28** E Walker 9-7 **David Egan**
5 (14) **DROPSKIPANDUMP** P Crate 9-7 **S W Kelly**
6 (4) 0 **FAST TREK 20** A Balding 9-7 **D Probert**
7 (8) 653 **FIERCE 16** G L Moore 9-7 **Rossa Ryan**
8 (16) **MUY MUY GUAPO** J Boyle 9-7 **C Shepherd**
9 (5) 3 **PASPALEY 14** W Haggas 9-7 **T Marquand**
10 (12) 2 **SKYSAIL 20** M Tregoning 9-7 **D Costello**
11 (13) 4 **STAMFORD BLUE 133** R Hannon 9-7 **P Dobbs**
12 (15) **TRILBY** G Boughey 9-7 **R L Moore**
13 (3) 6 **VECCHIO 50** M Meade 9-7 **R Hornby**
14 (11) 5 **WHAT A WHOPPER 22** B Meehan 9-7 **H Doyle**
15 (6) 87 **GIDDY AUNT 40** J Portman 9-2 **C Bishop**
16 (10) L **POR TI VOLARE 35** B Barr 9-2 **Josephine Gordon**

Probable SP: 3 Skysail, 10-3 Paspaley, 7 Acai, 10 Dark Trooper, Fierce, 12 Trilby, Calypso, Stamford Blue.

2.18 —EBF FILLIES' CONDITIONS STAKES (STR) (2) (2-Y-O) £18,000 added (£9,277) 7f (15)

1 (11) 1 **CRYSTALLIUM 22 (D)** Tom Clover 9-3 **David Egan**
2 (2) **CIARA STORM** M Meade 9-0 **J Crowley**
3 (3) **ELEGANCIA** H & R Charlton 9-0 **D Probert**
4 (13) **MAGGIE'S WAY** W Muir & C Grassick 9-0 **H Doyle**
5 (10) **MARIE LAVEAU** M Tregoning 9-0 **D Costello**
6 (4) **MISS LIGHTFANDANGO** C Hills 9-0 **D O'Neill**
7 (6) **OPERA FOREVER** A Balding 9-0 **R Hornby**
8 (12) 2 **PEONY 15** E Walker 9-0 **T Marquand**
9 (5) **SECRET SOLACE** M Tregoning 9-0 **Rossa Ryan**
10 (14) **SILVER LADY** C Appleby 9-0 **NON RUNNER**
11 (15) 6 **SKALLYWAG BAY 21** R Hannon 9-0 **P Dobbs**
12 (1) **SONEMOS** K P De Foy 9-0 **D Muscutt**
13 (7) **SUNDOWNER** E J-Houghton 9-0 **C Bishop**
14 (8) **ULYSSES PRINCESS** G L Moore 9-0 **S W Kelly**
15 (9) 1 **WYOMING 20 (S)** P & O Cole 9-0 **L Morris**

Probable SP: 5-2 Peony, 3 Wyoming, 11-2 Crystallium, 8 Elegancia, 12 Skallywag Bay, Opera Forever.

2.53 —NURSERY (STR) (3) (2-Y-O) £13,000 added (£6,700) 7f (6)

1 (6) 110 **METAHORSE 29 (D)** M Bell 9-9 **David Egan**
2 (2) 431 **THE PARENT 21 (S)** R Hannon 9-7 **R L Moore**
3 (5) 324 **STRAWBERRY BELLE 20** Patrick Owens 9-0 **L Steward**
4 (4) 173 **SURELY NOT 50 (D)** D F Davis 8-12 **H Doyle**
5 (3) 22L **HAUGHTY 34** A King 8-8 **D Probert**
6 (1) 705 **DREAM OF MISCHIEF 21** A Perrett 8-7 **L Morris**

Probable SP: 5-2 The Parent, 11-4 Surely Not, 7-2 Strawberry Belle, 9-2 Metahorse, 10 Haughty, 12 Dream Of.

Headgear first time: 1.07 Tough Enough. **Longest traveller:** C'Est No Mour (4.35) 192 miles. **First run since wind surgery:** None today.

3.28 —CONDITIONS STAKES (STR) (2) (2-Y-O) £20,000 added (£10,308) 1m (4)

1 (1) 421 **CLASSIC 21 (S)** R Hannon 9-3 **P Dobbs**
2 (3) 1 **HIGHBANK 55 (G)** C Appleby 9-3 **R L Moore**
3 (2) 6 **ELIGIUS 14** B Meehan 9-0 **H Doyle**
4 (4) 332 **STORMBUSTER 28** A Balding 9-0 **D Probert**

Probable SP: 4-5 Highbank, 5-2 Classic, 7-2 Stormbuster.

4.03 —STAKES (LISTED) (STR) (1) £40,000 added (£22,684) 7f (7)

1 (5) 01L **JUMBY 27 (C&DD2) (G)** E J-Houghton 4-9-11 **C Bishop**
2 (7) 0L1 **SALEYMM 15 (T) (D3) (G)** S & E Crisford 4-9-4 **R L Moore**
3 (3) 0-11 **SHINE SO BRIGHT 125 (H) (D4) (G)** A Balding 6-9-4 **D Probert**
4 (6) 252 **TACARIB BAY 13 (P) (D) (S)** R Hannon 3-9-1 **Rossa Ryan**
5 (2) 556 **SACRED 27 (T) (C&DDBF2) (G)** W Haggas 4-8-13 **T Marquand**
6 (1) 1-6L **HEAT OF THE MOMENT 124 (S)** J Chapple-Hyam 3-8-10 **H Doyle**
7 (4) 66L **SIAMSA 91 (D) (G)** R Hannon 3-8-10 **David Egan**

Probable SP: 9-4 Sacred, 4 Tacarib Bay, Jumby, 9-2 Shine So Bright, 5 Saleymm, 12 Heat Of The Moment.

4.35 —HANDICAP (2) £20,000 added (£10,800) 1m 4f (10)

1 (1) L23 **MAHRAJAAN 28 (D2BF) (G)** W Haggas 4-10-2 **J Crowley**
2 (6) 641 **SAM COOKE 20 (D2) (GS)** R Beckett 6-10-1 **R Hornby**
3 (9) 411- **C'EST NO MOUR 259 (C&DD7) (GS)** S Hodgson 9-9-13 **T Marquand**
4 (7) 036 **MOKTASAAB 28 (C) (G)** W Knight 4-9-12 **C Shepherd**
5 (3) 61-4 **GOOLWA 146 (D2) (G)** A Balding 4-9-11 **C Hutchinson (5)**
6 (5) 1-3L **HASTY SAILOR 107 (T) (D3)** Sir M Stoute 5-9-9 **R L Moore**
7 (10) 0-60 **TORCELLO 76 (CD3) (S)** S Lycett 8-9-6 **Josephine Gordon**
8 (8) LL0 **BERKSHIRE REBEL 92 (G)** A Balding 3-9-2 **D Probert**
9 (2) 129 **KNIGHT OF HONOUR 27** J & T Gosden 3-9-1 **M Harley**
10 (4) 513 **WANDERING ROCKS 23 (HT)** J Fanshawe 3-9-0 **D Muscutt**

Probable SP: 7-2 Mahrajaan, 5 Sam Cooke, 6 Wandering Rocks, Hasty Sailor, 7 Moktasaab, Knight Of Honour.

5.05 —HANDICAP (4) £9,250 added (£4,671) 1m 2f (20)

1 (20) 61L- **DUTY OF CARE 376 (G)** J Osborne 4-10-2 **S W Kelly**
2 (7) L96 **SKY POWER 95 (D2)** R Beckett 5-10-1 **Rossa Ryan**
3 (6) LL0 **FAST MEDICINE 49 (H)** P Chapple-Hyam 4-10-0 **C Hutchinson (5)**
4 (16) 539- **SET POINT 442 (S)** H Palmer 4-9-12 **H Davies (3)**
5 (9) 190 **FOUNTAIN CROSS 43** A King 4-9-12 **C Bishop**
6 (15) 41-8 **SECRET BOX 27 (D)** Sir M Prescott 4-9-10 **L Morris**
7 (5) 34-4 **FURTHER MEASURE 252 (S)** S Kirk 5-9-9 **L Keniry**
8 (12) 143 **VEE SIGHT 27 (G)** R Beckett 3-9-8 **R Hornby**
9 (10) 23L **GROUP ONE POWER 36** A Balding 5-9-8 **D Probert**
10 (19) 5-84 **KATTANI 96 (T) (D) (S)** M Appleby 6-9-8 **T Marquand**
11 (17) 152 **STATELY HOME 99 (S)** S Lycett 5-9-7 **Josephine Gordon**
12 (13) L00 **OH HERBERTS REIGN 26 (S)** R Hannon 3-9-6 **P Dobbs**
13 (2) 451- **MUSTAZEED 329 (D2) (GS)** C Wall 4-9-5 **H Doyle**
14 (18) 614 **ASCENDING 26 (S)** C Cox 3-9-5 **A Kirby**
15 (8) 12L **ROYAL RIFT 50** B Meehan 3-9-2 **D Muscutt**
16 (14) 7-02 **PERSEUS WAY 78 (S)** Owen Burrows 3-9-1 **J Crowley**
17 (1) 55L **LAWN RANGER 20 (D4) (GS)** M Attwater 7-8-13 **C Shepherd**
18 (11) 664 **CARP KID 15 (P) (D3) (GS)** J Flint 7-8-11 **A Keeley (5)**
19 (4) 355 **TRAILBLAZER 72** W Muir & C Grassick 3-8-11 **David Egan**
20 (3) 017- **WATERLOO SUNSET 323 (D)** D Coakley 4-8-10 **G Bass (3)**

Probable SP: 5 Vee Sight, 7 Secret Box, Ascending, 8 Stately Home, 10 Perseus Way, 12 Kattani.

TRACK FACTS: L-H course. GOING: Good-good to soft in places. **STALLS:** Centre. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** High. **Top jockey:** Jim Crowley. **Top trainer:** R Hannon. **Placed in the race last year:** 5.05 Kattani (2nd). **Drop in Class:** 1.07 Kessaar Power is down 2 grades on last run (Class 2 to Class 4); Wadi Bani (2); 4.03 Jumby (2); Sacred (2); 5.05 Fast Medicine (2); Secret Box (2); Vee Sight (2); Royal Rift (2).

From Eswatini to Halifax…and now dreaming of Grand Final glory

Eyes on the prize: Kruise Leeming PA

EXCLUSIVE
By DAVID COVERDALE

KRUISE LEEMING counts himself lucky. 'My dad wanted to call me Anchor, so I'm glad he didn't,' laughs the Leeds Rhinos captain when explaining the origins of his first name.

'He worked as a casino croupier on a cruise ship with my mum. That's where they met and that's where I was conceived, so they wanted to name me something to do with the ship.'

Leeming, who tonight leads out Leeds in their Super League play-off semi-final at Wigan, was born back on dry land in Eswatini, where he lived until he was three. He then moved with his family to Halifax but soon his life in England was struck by tragedy.

'When I was eight, my dad died of throat cancer,' Leeming tells *Sportsmail*. 'We were best mates and it hit me really hard.'

Leeming, 27, never played rugby with his dad, preferring golf. And it was while hitting a wedge that his life would change for good. 'I used to practise my shots at the Siddal rugby field, trying to hit the ball through the posts,' he recalls.

'One day, the groundsman caught me and said, "You can't be practising here, you're ripping up all of the turf". I pleaded with him and eventually he said, "I will do you a deal, you can practise here as long as you come and train with us".'

The rest is history as six years later Leeming made his Super League debut for Huddersfield Giants aged just 17, scoring a try with his second touch. He joined Leeds Rhinos at the end of 2019, winning the Challenge Cup with them in 2020 and making his England debut the following year.

'My mum still doesn't know what is going on, she still thinks I play down at Siddal! But she is immensely proud,' grins Leeming.

Few would have predicted Leeds would reach the play-off semi-finals given their poor start to the season. But their form has transformed under Aussie coach Rohan Smith, who took charge in May and led them to fifth in the table. It is a position they have won the Grand Final from twice before — in 2011 and 2012.

'Obviously history doesn't play games for you,' says Leeming. 'But it is just nice to know it is doable. Anything less than silverware at the end of the season is a failure for a club like Leeds Rhinos.'

TV: Wigan v Leeds, **LIVE** on Sky Sports Arena, kick-off 8pm.

RACING RESULTS

AYR

1.20 — CHUZZLEWIT (K Stott) **11-10F** 1; **Beyond Reproach 18-1** 2; **Vortigan 40-1** 3. **14 ran.** (K Ryan). hd, 1¼. **Tote:** 2.10; 1.10, 4.10, 5.20. Ex: 23.50. Tf: 370.20. CSF: 24.83.

1.50 — HI ROYAL (K Stott) **evensF** 1; **Power Of Gold 10-3(2ndFav)** 2; **Reidh 4-1** 3. **10 ran.** (K Ryan). 2½, hd. **Tote:** 2.00; 1.10, 1.40, 1.60. Ex: 5.70. Tf: 13.70. CSF: 4.18.

2.25 — TRIPLE JAYE (D Allan) **12-1** 1; Refuge 14-1 2; Lady Lade 25-1 3; Never Dark 4-1F 4. **21 ran.** (T Easterby). ½, nk, shd. **Tote:** 14.90; 3.10, 3.90, 6.80, 1.70. Ex: 276.40. Tc: 4168.01. Tf: 2408.50. CSF: 164.00. NR: Eternal Halo.

3.00 — YORKSHIRE LADY (Joanna Mason) **18-1** 1; **Mr Alan 12-1** 2; **Fishable 33-1** 3. **14 ran.** (M & D Easterby). ns, 1½. **Tote:** 23.20; 4.60, 4.30, 10.70. Ex: 329.40. Tc: 6925.86. Tf: 4006.50. CSF: 219.48.

3.35 — MISTY DANCER (R Hornby) **5-2F** 1; **Smiling Jayne 13-2** 2; **My Little Queens 4-1(Jt2ndFav)** 3. **11 ran.** (S & E Crisford). 1l, 1¼. **Tote:** 3.50; 1.40, 2.10, 1.70. Ex: 20.30. Tc: 63.65. Tf: 76.60. CSF: 18.50.

4.10 — TOMMY G (T Marquand) **17-2** 1; **Cisco Disco 6-1** 2; **Professional Widow 11-4F** 3. **8 ran.** (J Goldie). nk, 3l. **Tote:** 9.50; 2.10, 2.10, 1.30. Ex: 56.60. Tc: 178.98. Tf: 269.50. CSF: 58.64. NRs: Dulla Bhatti, Parys Mountain.

4.45 — A BOY NAMED IVY (C Beasley) **7-4F** 1; **Devilwala 9-1** 2; **End Zone 6-1** 3. **8 ran.** (M Dods). hd, 2l. **Tote:** 2.75; 1.20, 2.80, 2.20. Ex: 19.90. Tc: 77.20. Tf: 102.30. CSF: 17.95. NRs: Bashful, Shimmering Sands.

5.20 — MIN TILL (C Beasley) **16-1** 1; **Monhammer 6-1** 2; **Flying Pursuit 11-1** 3. **13 ran.** (M & D Easterby). 1½, nk. **Tote:** 20.20; 6.10, 1.90, 3.50. Ex: 107.00. Tc: 1162.38. Tf: 2569.50. CSF: 109.46. NR: Novak.

Placepot £299.80. **Q'pot** £132.40.

CHELMSFORD CITY

5.00 — AMASOVA (C Planas) **15-8F** 1; **Prince Of Flight 12-1** 2; **Super Julius 12-1** 3. **11 ran.** (Alice Haynes). 1½, nk. **Tote:** 2.88; 1.30, 3.90, 2.60. Ex: 27.10. Tc: 219.46. Tf: 305.10. CSF: 26.48.

5.30 — HE'S A MONSTER (H Doyle) **15-2** 1; **States Of Thunder 33-1** 2; **Ghassan 5-1** 3. **9 ran.** (A Watson). 2¼, 1l. **Tote:** 8.50; 2.00, 7.30, 1.80. Ex: 162.90. Tf: 4606.50. CSF: 212.16. NRs: Billaki Mou, Double Down.

6.00 — HARRY BROWN (H Doyle) **15-8(2ndFav)** 1; **Radio Goo Goo 11-4** 2; **Noah David 18-1** 3. **10 ran.** (D M Simcock). ½, 1l. **Tote:** 3.20; 1.10, 1.30, 3.20. Ex: 9.50. Tf: 51.40. CSF: 7.77. NR: Woolhampton.

6.30 — LUMACHO (D O'Neill) **15-8F** 1; **Senor Pockets 3-1(2ndFav)** 2; **Miss Marianne 14-1** 3. **8 ran.** (G Boughey). 1l, 1¼. **Tote:** 2.88; 1.30, 1.20, 3.10. Ex: 8.30. Tc: 56.78. Tf: 86.00. CSF: 7.44. NR: Oh Sweet Tabu.

7.00 — CITY WALK (R Kingscote) **2-1F** 1; **Digital 17-2** 2; **Apollo One 3-1(2ndFav)** 3. **9 ran.** (S bin Suroor). 2l, 1¾. **Tote:** 3.00; 1.30, 2.50, 1.60. Ex: 20.80. Tc: 51.33. Tf: 100.80. CSF: 20.46.

7.30 — SCHWARTZ (G Rooke) **18-5(2ndFav)** 1; **Pub Crawl 7-1** 2; **Zuba 50-1** 3. **10 ran.** (R Hughes). 1¼, 1½. **Tote:** 5.00; 1.70, 2.30, 10.60. Ex: 28.40. Tc: 1082.15. Tf: 975.90. CSF: 28.38.

8.00 — LAURENTIA (C Bennett) **12-1** 1; **Cloch Nua 13-2** 2; **Shabs 4-1(2ndFav)** 3. **15 ran.** (D Ivory). 1½, 6l. **Tote:** 14.00; 4.20, 2.50, 1.90. Ex: 102.90. Tc: 377.83. Tf: 352.10. CSF: 85.87. NR: Fast Danseuse.

8.30 — TRAVESURAS (H Davies) **7-2(Jt2ndFav)** 1; **Janus 10-1** 2; **Cavalluccio 20-1** 3. **9 ran.** (C Fellowes). nk, 1½. **Tote:** 4.70; 1.70, 2.90, 4.60. Ex: 43.90. Tc: 608.80. Tf: 525.10. CSF: 38.06. NRs: I Am The Sea, Salonica.

Placepot £148.90. **Q'pot** £9.10.

NEWCASTLE

5.45 — TRUE COURAGE (R Dawson) **11-2(2ndFav)** 1; **Sarsons Risk 6-1** 2; **Fair Star 8-1** 3. **12 ran.** (M Bell). nk, ½. **Tote:** 6.50; 2.10, 2.30, 2.50. Ex: 39.10. Tc: 265.17. Tf: 222.50. CSF: 37.96.

6.15 — TREGONY (S Osborne) **9-2F** 1; **City Runner 15-2** 2; **White Willow 6-1(2ndFav)** 3. **Innse Gall 33-1** 3. **14 ran.** (C Cox). 1¼, ½, dht. **Tote:** Tregony 5.50; Tregony 2.40, City Runner 2.90, Innse Gall 4.00. Ex: Tregony, City Runner 34.60. Tc: Tregony, City Runner, White Willow 103.38, Tregony, City Runner, Innse Gall 500.37. Tf: Tregony, City Runner, White Willow 122.70, Tregony, City Runner, Innse Gall 564.30. CSF: Tregony, City Runner 36.84.

6.45 — RAISING SAND (S Osborne) **40-1** 1; **Light Up Our Stars 14-1** 2; **Yaaser 11-1** 3. **14 ran.** (J Osborne). ½, 1¼. **Tote:** 48.10; 12.20, 4.10, 4.20. Ex: 1185.40. Tc: 6644.24. Tf: Not won. CSF: 524.11.

7.15 — BILLY MILL (S Osborne) **28-1** 1; **Eagleway 40-1** 2; **Melody Of Life 50-1** 3. **13 ran.** (B Millman). ½, shd. **Tote:** 31.00; 9.90, 11.50, 5.30. Ex: 1224.60. Tc: 43676.94. Tf: Not won. CSF: 843.56. NR: Street Kid.

7.45 — NEVER JUST A DREAM (C Noble) **85-40F** 1; **Glorious Angel 10-1** 2; **Cotai Pearl 4-1(2ndFav)** 3. **10 ran.** (I Mohammed). 2¼, 1½. **Tote:** 3.13; 1.80, 4.00, 1.70. Ex: 27.40. Tc: 81.86. Tf: 165.40. CSF: 24.37. NRs: Cuban Rock, Expeditious, Magical Merlin, Yacowlef.

8.15 — TEMPLE BRUER (D Muscutt) **9-1** 1; **Honky Tonk Man 7-2CoFav** 2; **Lir Speciale 7-2CoFav** 3. **14 ran.** (M Murphy & M Keady). nk, ¾. **Tote:** 10.10; 3.10, 1.90, 1.90. Ex: 59.20. Tc: 138.88. Tf: 397.70. CSF: 40.56.

8.45 — THE BELL CONDUCTOR (P Mulrennan) **12-1** 1; **Swayze 11-1** 2; **Faustus 17-2** 3. **14 ran.** (P Midgley). 2l, 1l. **Tote:** 15.00; 5.00, 3.70, 3.50. Ex: 174.90. Tc: 1228.70. Tf: 1378.80. CSF: 140.49.

Jackpot Not won, pool of £7,822.83 carried over.

Placepot £129,858.80. **Q'pot** £1,582.60.

PONTEFRACT

1.42 — ROUND THE ISLAND (Mark Winn) **13-2** 1; **Magical Effect 16-5F** 2; **Carlton And Co 11-1** 3. **15 ran.** (Simon Whitaker). shd, ns. **Tote:** 7.70; 2.10, 1.80, 4.20. Ex: 36.90. Tc: 204.50. Tf: 451.40. CSF: 27.97. NR: Captain Vallo.

2.17 — HOUGOUMONT (D Nolan) **11-4(2ndFav)** 1; **Rez 7-2** 2; **Shine's Ambition 9-4F** 3. **8 ran.** (J Camacho). shd, ½. **Tote:** 3.75; 1.30, 1.40, 1.20. Ex: 11.80. Tf: 30.40. CSF: 12.67. NRs: Barrolo, My Delilah, Noble Title.

2.52 — QUANTUM IMPACT (H Crouch) **13-8F** 1; **Hobson Point 5-1** 2; **Derwent Boy 5-1** 3. **9 ran.** (R Beckett). 2l, ½. **Tote:** 2.63; 1.20, 1.70, 1.30. Ex: 10.70. Tf: 42.50. CSF: 10.36. NR: Penny Ghent.

3.27 — CARRIGILLIHY (S B Kirrane) **25-1** 1; **Arrange 6-1** 2; **Billy No Mates 14-1** 3. **10 ran.** (T Easterby). 1¼, hd. **Tote:** 26.00; 4.50, 2.30, 2.60. Ex: 234.10. Tc: 2210.66. Tf: 3078.30. CSF: 169.78. NR: Amalfi Bay.

4.02 — INTERNATIONAL GIRL (C Murtagh) **9-1** 1; **Another Romance 6-4F** 2; **Anadora 22-1** 3. **8 ran.** (R Fahey). hd, 1¼. **Tote:** 10.00; 2.50, 1.10, 5.20. Ex: 30.10. Tc: 293.74. Tf: 329.30. CSF: 22.41.

4.37 — INFINITI (A Brookes) **10-3F** 1; **Flint Hill 9-1** 2; **Wynford 9-2(2ndFav)** 3. **13 ran.** (K Frost). ½, nk. **Tote:** 4.34; 2.00, 3.00, 2.20. Ex: 34.70. Tc: 139.57. Tf: 124.40. CSF: 34.95.

5.10 — POKER FACE (H Crouch) **9-4(2ndFav)** 1; **Firth Of Clyde 6-5F** 2; **Chantico 7-1** 3. **10 ran.** (S & E Crisford). 3¼, shd. **Tote:** 3.30; 1.30, 1.10, 2.00. Ex: 7.10. Tf: 20.00. CSF: 5.30. NR: Topomania.

5.40 — GAINSBOURG (P J McDonald) **11-2(2ndFav)** 1; **Shahnaz 14-1** 2; **Mr Trick 28-1** 3. **15 ran.** (E Bethell). 2¼, hd. **Tote:** 7.20; 2.30, 3.70, 9.10. Ex: 109.60. Tc: 2053.27. Tf: 1650.30. CSF: 80.96. NR: Freddy Robinson.

Placepot £34.10. **Q'pot** £19.60.

YARMOUTH

1.35 — THE SPOTLIGHT KID (C Fallon) **9-2** 1; **Lelabad 11-4F** 2; **Little Sunflower 17-2** 3. **14 ran.** (D Ivory). 1l, 1¼. **Tote:** 5.50; 1.80, 1.70, 3.30. Ex: 24.30. Tc: 111.17. Tf: 193.20. CSF: 17.36. NRs: Hi Ho Silver, Khurumbi.

2.10 — GLENFINNAN (R L Moore) **4-6F** 1; **Maasai Mara 5-2(2ndFav)** 2; **Vaguely Royal 6-1** 3. **7 ran.** (A Balding). 2l, 2l. **Tote:** 1.67; 1.10, 1.70. Ex: 2.80. Tf: 6.20. CSF: 2.53.

2.45 — ANANDA (R Havlin) **5-4F** 1; **Pinafore 7-2(2ndFav)** 2; **Azure Angel 6-1** 3. **10 ran.** (J & T Gosden). 2l, 4l. **Tote:** 2.19; 1.10, 1.80, 1.90. Ex: 6.80. Tf: 25.60. CSF: 5.19. NR: Pastiche.

3.20 — PREMIERE BEAUTY (D E Hogan) **80-1** 1; **Nammos 2-1F** 2; **Original Thinker 12-1** 3. **11 ran.** (S C Williams). ½, 2¼. **Tote:** 81.00; 12.70, 1.20, 3.10. Ex: 342.40. Tf: 4403.20. CSF: 235.94.

3.55 — THE GADGET MAN (Rossa Ryan) **6-4F** 1; **Traila 17-2** 2; **Praiano 4-1** 3. **7 ran.** (R Beckett). shd, 2¾. **Tote:** 2.50; 1.40, 2.70. Ex: 13.50. Tf: 59.70. CSF: 15.84.

4.30 — BELLSTREET BRIDIE (R L Moore) **5-2F** 1; **Rozalia 12-1** 2; **Jalea Moon 11-1** 3. **9 ran.** (M Bell). ¾, ½. **Tote:** 3.50; 1.40, 2.40, 3.10. Ex: 25.80. Tc: 280.18. Tf: 308.70. CSF: 34.02. NR: Spyfall.

5.05 — FIRST FOLIO (T Fisher) **13-8F** 1; **Aphelios 15-8(2ndFav)** 2; **Sir Oliver 12-1** 3. **9 ran.** (J Ferguson). 1l, 2l. **Tote:** 2.63; 1.20, 1.10, 2.70. Ex: 6.00. Tc: 25.08. Tf: 28.10. CSF: 4.89. NR: Pocket The Profit.

5.35 — JADE COUNTRY (C Bishop) **9-1** 1; **Silver Screen 12-1** 2; **Craft In Silk 22-1** 3. **14 ran.** (E J-Houghton). ½, 4l. **Tote:** 11.70; 3.80, 4.20, 6.80. Ex: 140.10. Tc: 2300.68. Tf: 2514.80. CSF: 115.55.

Placepot £13.30. **Q'pot** £7.30.

HOTSPOTS

WORK WHISPER
KATTANI
(Newbury, 5.05)

WEIGHTING GAME
CULTURE
(Kempton, 8.15)
Down 20lb from last winning mark.

BURNT FINGERS
SEANTRABH
(Ayr, 2.35)

CAPTAIN HEATH TRIO

SECRET BOX (nap)
(Newbury, 5.05)

HEXAMETER (nb)
(Kempton, 5.10)

JUMBY
(Newbury, 4.03)

MARTIN SAMUEL
CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

Not every idea from the US stinks but this one does

IT is easto laugh at Todd Boehly's big ideas for English football, but first be aware of how previous innovations were received.

The introduction of a second substitute, initially proposed in 1986, was rejected on the grounds it would constitute another meal, another appearance fee and an extra hotel room on away trips.

Later, Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein arrived with the idea of putting players' names on shirts. One club owner opposed it claiming his laundry room wasn't big enough to cope. As it was, a player could take any shirt with a number on the back. Once they were individually assigned that wouldn't be possible.

It was only in 1993 when Dein walked in with Manchester United, Blackburn and Arsenal shirts he had specially made, reading GIGGS 11, SHEARER 9 and ADAMS 6, that his fellow directors saw the potential.

Dein had an eye on shirt sales, obviously, but also on building the profile of individuals on television overseas. Now players are valued for the merchandise they shift and their fame around the globe. And where did Dein get that idea from? America. So it's not all bad.

There was a time when putting extra cash registers in the club shop to cut queues on match days was seen as commercial genius. Kick-off times aside — and much of the anger there is to do with inadequate public transport — modern football is fan friendlier. And the germs of most of those schemes have come from across the Atlantic.

Usually introduced by men steeped in English football, mind. Dein was an Arsenal regular from school age. By contrast, Boehly has been here a metaphorical five minutes and he already thinks he knows what's best. A North versus South all-star game to raise money for the lower leagues, as happens in America? Play-offs to decide relegation? These are not ideas whose time has come.

Even our own promotion play-offs, hugely successful in a commercial sense, still don't sit right with fair competition. Each Championship team plays 46 games through a season to decide who comes first, second and third. Quite why the third best team is then pitched into a further

HIGH PRICE OF YORKSHIRE'S HASTY CULL

ANDREW GALE, former captain and coach of Yorkshire, is the latest to receive a substantial pay-off, following the fallout from the Azeem Rafiq racism scandal. Yorkshire's policy of sack first, ask questions later, is proving very expensive with £1.9million now set aside for the costs of compensation. Gale has always denied racism towards Rafiq and accused the ECB of conducting a witch-hunt. As the bill gets steeper, he looks increasingly justified in his anger.

GOT A CUNNING PLAN? THEN DON'T PUT

SOMETIMES you can be too clever. This fate befell the social media handler for Sheffield International FC, of the Sheffield and District Fair Play League, last Friday afternoon.

'Because the queen died, we will not be playing our league game against Byron House tomorrow morning at 10.30am,' read the message. 'We will instead be aiming to play a friendly tomorrow morning, against Byron House, kick-off 10.30am.' See what they did? And, yes, it was an utterly unnecessary intervention into ordinary lives, cancelling grassroots football matches. Let people run about in the fresh air, let them have fun and exercise. Yet, if that is the instruction from the Football Association and you choose to ignore it, don't make this obvious.

Certainly don't tweet about it while not even capitalising the Q in Queen; and particularly if you afford the typography of Byron House its due, because that just looks disrespectful.

Sure enough, the Sheffield & Hallamshire County

Racing royalty: Her Majesty does not hide her enthuasiasm during the 1978 Derby at Epsom MIRRORPIX

The Queen could not hide her love of the racecourse

IN THE last week, there have been various attempts to paint Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as British sport's standard bearer.
She wasn't. She didn't care for the national sport, football — it was close to 50 years since she attended an FA Cup final — and her greatest contributions were as a champion of the country, rather than a lover of any game.
So she was brilliant at winning over the vain and impressionable members of the International Olympic Committee to earn London the 2012 Olympics, but you weren't going to then find her at the judo. Horse racing was the exception. Horse racing was a passion. The Queen was a country woman at heart. Were it not for abdications and other twists of fate, she would have remained minor royalty living her life in a stately pile, surrounded by horses and dogs. If her uncle doesn't relinquish the throne she stays the first daughter of the Duke of York. She's Princess Beatrice. It makes her extraordinary sense of duty all the more admirable. So, while every sport has tried hard, perhaps the finest tribute of all was the simple racecard for the St Leger meeting at Doncaster on Sunday. In sombre monochrome, it showed a young monarch cheering one home at the Derby in 1978, with her fist clenched and arm raised in celebratory salute. It is a special image. There are not too many of her in such a natural pose, enjoying sport. There is no record of her leaping to her feet when England scored in 1966, for instance.
Yet, around racing, she was different. Speaking this week, the Bishop of Durham told a story about sharing a sofa with the Queen, as she watched one of her horses run in America. Paul Butler described her springing up and screaming the horse home, only to see it beaten by a head on the line.
'She was so cross,' the Bishop said. And there will be a lot of mourning, pomp and circumstance in the coming days. But if you like to imagine your Queen engaged, human and furiously berating a jockey for missing the break, that one's for you.

contest with the club in sixth before facing another match against the team in fourth or fifth remains a mystery.

The only justification is that everyone is aware of the rules before they start. But it really is nonsense. And the bottom three go down. We know that. Why should fourth from bottom then get dragged into the drama?

One imagines that Boehly (right) isn't proposing that, were Chelsea to win the league across 38 hard-fought matches, they should play-off against Europa League qualifiers.

Then again, Boehly's background is a sport — Major League Baseball — where 162 matches only get a franchise to stage two. Potentially, there are another 22 games after that. Less isn't more in American sport.

And the All-Star Game isn't just a glorified Soccer Aid either. It has wider significance. From 1973 until this season, baseball's two leagues, National and American, played by different rules. In the National League, the pitcher had to bat. In the American League, he was replaced at bat by a Designated Hitter.

And from 2003 to 2016, to add extra spice, when the Leagues contested the All-Star Game, whoever came out on top got homefield advantage at the World Series, its champion playing at home and to their rules in four of the seven games.

EQUALLY, two of the biggest American sports, baseball and NFL, don't really enjoy significant international competition. So the All-Star Game is the one time players from the many franchises come together in a scratch team and have to make it work.

We already have that here. It's called international football. Throughout the season, there are regular gatherings in which players from arch-rivals join together and do the best they can.

John Stones and Harry Maguire; Bruno Fernandes and Bernardo Silva. Seeing if Liverpool and Manchester United players, or those of Manchester City and Chelsea, can function as a team is not a step into the unknown in football.

Next week, Gareth Southgate will try just that, when England face Italy. Also, with such a cosmopolitan league, we are even used to seeing team-mates in opposition — Mason Mount and Reece James against Jorginho, for instance.

What is considered an honour in America — like being selected for the British and Irish Lions, another all-star team — would be humdrum to most English eyes. And this is before we even consider scheduling, release and squad composition.

Pick your North XI right now. It's Manchester City. Manchester City with a small sprinkling of Liverpool. So why would anyone from the Midlands, North East or Yorkshire feel kinship?

Equally, if we went down the MLB route with every club represented, it means leaving out some of the best players. If Kevin De Bruyne and Erling Haaland take up City's allocation, what of Phil Foden, Rodri, Joao Cancelo, Silva and Ederson? Many of the game's biggest stars would be excluded.

More amusing, but just as unlikely to occur, would be a recreation of the State of Origin game between Queensland and New South Wales that exists in Australia's rugby league. In those states it is the sporting event of the year. Players do not represent their clubs but the state in which they were born or first entered the game.

Now imagine a North v South football match, with Nick Pope or Jadon Sancho being called back to the South, passing Ben Davies on the other side of the motorway. And yes, we know where Neath and Swansea are on the map, but you'd have to afford the Celtic nations affinity with the North, surely?

What fun. But utterly impractical. For a start, it is a parochial match, excluding the foreign players that comprise many of the biggest names in our league.

Equally, identifying with two defined states, Queensland and New South Wales, is easier than with vague concepts of north and south, an arbitrary line drawn below Birmingham.

Who gets behind that? The ECB are already discovering with The Hundred that manufactured loyalties do not last.

So, thanks but no thanks on that one, Todd. But do keep thinking of us, if not for us. Better this than a shady little cabal that keeps its plans to itself and tries to ruin football by forming a Super League on the sly.

And Chelsea's last owner didn't utter a word in close to 20 years. His every last judgment was a puzzle. So we can hardly complain if his successor likes to talk out loud.

Because not every idea from America stinks. The one where commercial revenue gained outside a franchise's immediate locality is pooled and shared — so that a New York Yankees baseball cap bought in Arizona is split 30 ways? That's interesting.

And the fillip American sport gives its weaker clubs by allowing them a jump in the post-season transfer market. That could make a competitive difference, too.

Is there anything we could do here, to even out the competition? These are concepts worth exploring. You will notice, however, that the new owner of Chelsea wasn't much interested in that kind of blue-sky thinking.

IT ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

FA are now investigating with punishment promised 'in the strongest possible terms'. Meanwhile, Eton School also played on, but didn't flag it up and claimed their games against Rossall School were trials as part of the pre-season programme. So that's how the establishment behaves. The FA should store all of these details for future reference. Football has been ill-prepared to deal with what should have been an anticipated, if sad, event, and has made some very strange and hurried calls.

UEFA forbade the playing of the national anthem at matches in Britain this week. Then, as if that wasn't enough, their statement tried to exude empathy by confirming that, out of respect to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, their own Champions League anthem would also not be played. As if a glorified marketing company — football's rulers gave up being much else long ago — gets an anthem. Nations have anthems; UEFA have something the players come out to.

FURTHER to last week's mention of the proposed women's British and Irish Lions side, England prepared for the World Cup with a 73-7 win over Wales. It takes the aggregate score across their last seven encounters to 383-44; an average of 54-6.
So how many Welsh players would get in ahead of England's women? And wouldn't it be better to wait until a composite team could be justified?

THE EFL are to hold urgent talks with their clubs over rising energy costs as winter approaches. Urgent? As long ago as the first week in August, the Isthmian League was discussing early kick-off times to save lighting bills. The EFL will be getting around to this in the next few weeks, apparently. These people don't need a government regulator, they need a rocket up their... *(but wouldn't that use more energy? Ed.)*

It's bulletproof buses and snipers on the rooftops as England return to Pakistan

Security measures: a police van on duty in Karachi, where England have been given VVIP protection EPA

RICHARD GIBSON in Karachi

AN ENGLAND team arrived on Pakistan soil for the first time in 17 years yesterday bearing gifts but wrapped in presidential-level security.

Within hours of a 20-man squad landing in Karachi for a seven-match T20 series, it was announced that the players had donated a five-figure sum to the country's flood fund and that their ECB bosses would match that figure.

The three-week tour comes as Pakistan deals with a humanitarian crisis that has seen a third of the country submerged by a 'monster' monsoon season that has affected an estimated 33million people. Addressing more than 60 local reporters and two dozen television cameras, England captain Jos Buttler explained they wanted to play a 'small part' with their relief money, adding: 'We hope that us being here can uplift things a little bit and raise people's spirits by seeing us play cricket. Sport has a great power to unite people.'

England last played in Pakistan in 2005 and were due to return 12 months ago, but cancelled, citing concerns over the 'mental and physical well-being' of their players ahead of the Ashes — a decision the Pakistan Cricket Board branded 'disrespectful'.

Three days earlier, New Zealand had also pulled out of touring Pakistan due to safety concerns.

Yesterday, England arrived with VVIP protection, the level given to heads of state. The PCB have handed over one of their half-dozen bulletproof buses for travel and more than 300 security personnel are on duty around the team hotel, including plain clothes armed officers and guards with machine guns.

On match days, roads en route to the ground will be sealed off, snipers placed on rooftops and a helicopter will monitor their journey. Shops, offices and petrol stations nearby must close.

'Visually it seems over the top but it is there to make sure everything runs smoothly,' said Buttler, who was on a similarly security-heavy tour of Bangladesh in 2016. 'That is the initial challenge, it being very different to what you are used to. After a day or two you get used to it, focus on cricket and look forward to playing.'

Buttler insisted the squad had no reservations about travelling following a presentation by the ECB's security adviser Reg Dickason last week.

International cricket has gradually returned to Pakistan following the ambush by terrorists of the Sri Lanka team bus in Lahore 13 years ago.

During that period, England played away series against Pakistan in 2012 and 2015 in the United Arab Emirates.

This trip and the three pre-Christmas Tests, following a successful tour by Australia this spring, represent the full reintegration of Pakistan as a host nation within the international game.

BUTTLER MAY MISS ENTIRE T20 SERIES

Skipper won't risk injury before World Cup

by RICHARD GIBSON

JOS BUTTLER could remain on the sidelines throughout England's seven-match Twenty20 series against Pakistan in a bid to ensure his fitness for next month's World Cup.

Buttler, 32, revealed yesterday that his calf injury would limit him to the final two fixtures at best, following medical advice to take things slowly, adding that the historic nature of the tour and a chance to develop his relationship with England coach Matthew Mott were the major factors behind his presence.

'Speaking to the physios, it is an injury that is not bad, but one that has a risk of recurrence. You don't want to push it too soon, especially with what we have ahead,' said Buttler.

'We have warm-up games in Australia so there is no desperate need to get as fit as possible. We've just got to take it as it comes. If I was available for the last couple, that would be the best-case scenario at the minute. It might come earlier than that, it might not at all, but the picture will become clearer in a week or so.

'As captain, coming back to Pakistan after a long time, I felt like it was important, whether I played the games or not.'

England arrived for a first tour here since 2005 with Alex Hales among the 20-man playing group and Buttler revealed that it took two ring-rounds of team-mates before the destructive Nottinghamshire opener's three-year exile was ended — one before initial selection and another immediately after he was identified as the crocked Jonny Bairstow's replacement.

'That was important. It's no secret that when Alex got left out of the 2019 World Cup squad, Eoin (Morgan) did a similar thing,' Buttler said. 'He spoke to many of the senior players, the coaching staff, and as a team it's important you give ownership to other guys and gather opinions.

'I had my own view but I wanted to just make sure that everyone was on the same page. Everyone was, so that's great.

'I look forward to having him back in and around the group and it won't be long until Moeen Ali is taking the mick out of him again or whatever and all will be well.'

Hales was axed from England's white-ball squads three years ago after it emerged he'd served a ban for a second positive recreational drugs test. Until last week, 'trust issues' were cited whenever he was suggested for a recall. Buttler said he was 'sure Alex is a different person' now and that his record in the Pakistan Super League — he is one of 10 England tourists to have played T20 cricket here before — and Australia's Big Bash made him the 'obvious pick'.

Moeen will captain the side for the four matches in Karachi and potentially the three that follow in Lahore following confirmation of Buttler's conservative approach to his comeback.

● ENGLAND'S women last night secured a 2-1 series win against India when they beat the tourists by seven wickets in the third and final T20 match in Bristol. Chasing 123, England eased home thanks to Sophia Dunkley's 49 and 38 not out by Alice Capsey.

Playing safe: Buttler GETTY IMAGES

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS AND SPORT IN BRIEF

EUROPA LEAGUE

Group E

SHERIFF .....(0) 0 MAN UTD ..... (2) 2
Sancho 17
Ronaldo 39 (pen)

Real Sociedad 2 Omonia Nicosia 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Real Sociedad	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	6
Man Utd	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	3
Sheriff	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
Omonia	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0

Gp A: Arsenal P PSV P, Bodo/Glimt 2 Zurich 1. **Gp B:** Dynamo Kiev 0 AEK Larnaca 1, Rennes 2 Fenerbahce 2. **Gp C:** Real Betis 3 Ludogorets 2, Roma 3 HJK 0. **Gp D:** Braga 1 Union Berlin 0, Union Saint Gilloise 3 Malmo FF 2. **Gp F:** FC Midtjylland 5 Lazio 1, Feyenoord 6 Sturm Graz 0. **Gp G:** Karabakh 3 Nantes 0, Olympiacos 0 Freiburg 3. **Gp H:** Monaco 0 Ferencvaros 1, Trabzonspor 2 Red Star Belgrade 1.

EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE

Group A

RIGAS FS.....(0) 0 HEARTS.....(1) 2
Shankland 43 (pen)
Forrest 90

Istanbul Basaksehir 3 Fiorentina 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Istanbul B'sehir	2	2	0	0	7	0	7	6
Hearts	2	1	0	1	2	4	-2	3
Rigas FS	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1
Fiorentina	2	0	1	1	1	4	-3	1

Group B

SILKEBORG.....(1) 2 WEST HAM.... (3) 3
Kusk 5
Lanzini 13 (pen)
Tengstedt 75
Scamacca 25, Dawson 38

FCSB 0 Anderlecht 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
West Ham	2	2	0	0	6	3	3	6
Anderlecht	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	4
FCSB	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1
Silkeborg	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0

■GOLF

DP WORLD TOUR ITALIAN OPEN (Rome) — **1st rnd** (GB & Ire unless stated, Par 71): **67** — R McIlroy; A Arnaus (Sp); A Rozner (F); S Jamieson; E Pepperell; G Green (Mal); **68** — N Hoejgaard (Den); O Bekker (SA); **69** — A Rai; F Celli (It); D Fichardt (SA); N von Dellingshausen (G); R Roussel (F); R Mansell.

■TENNIS

WTA ZAVAROVALNICA SAVA PORTOROZ (Slovenia) — **Women's Singles 2nd rnd: A Friedsam** (G) bt (1) E Raducanu (GB) 7-5 0-6 6-3; **K Siniakova** (Cz) bt J Anna Burrage (GB) 7-5 6-1.

WTA CHENNAI OPEN (India) — **Women's Singles 2nd rnd: K Swan** (GB) bt A Gasanova (Rus) 7-6 (7-5) 6-2.

■TODAY'S ACTION

(7.45 unless stated)

PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa v Southampton ..... (8.0)
Live on Sky Sports Main Event

Nottm Forest v Fulham..... (8.0)

ICE HOCKEY — Premier Sports Challenge Cup Group C: Manchester Storm v Nottingham Panthers.

RUGBY LEAGUE — Betfred Super League Semi-Final (8.0): Wigan v Leeds.

RUGBY UNION — United Championship (7.35): Benetton Treviso v Glasgow (5.30).

LV COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

(Day 4 of 4)

Division I

	P	W	L	D	Bat	Bowl	Pts
Surrey	12	7	0	5	44	29	225
Hampshire	12	9	2	1	34	33	217
Lancashire	12	5	1	6	27	33	182
Essex	12	6	2	4	22	28	178
Northants	12	2	3	7	29	30	147
Yorkshire	12	1	4	7	33	29	132
Somerset	12	2	5	5	24	27	123
Kent	12	2	5	5	25	21	115
Warwickshire	12	1	5	6	22	30	115
Gloucestershire	12	0	8	4	24	23	74

Northamptonshire v Surrey

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire (14pts) drew with Surrey (16).

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE — First Innings 339

Second Innings
(Overnight: 209-5)

†R Vasconcelos lbw b Worrall 79
Saif Zaib c Curran b Patel.....124
J Sales b Worrall.....22
L Williams lbw b Roach 30
B Sanderson b Steel 12
C White not out 5
Extras (b4, lb18, w2, nb14) 38

Total (121.2 overs) 426
Fall: 15, 47, 72, 114, 161, 288, 316, 387, 412.
Bowling: Roach 22-6-45-1, Worrall 21-3-69-3, Atkinson 17-2-73-1, J Clark 18-1-54-1, Curran 11-4-25-0, Steel 26.2-1-104-3, R Patel 6-0-34-1.

SURREY — First Innings 421

Second Innings

***R Burns** run out 1
R Patel not out 32
H Amla not out 8
Extras (b2, lb1, nb4) 7

Total (1 wkt 20.3 overs) 48
Bowling: Sanderson 4-2-3-0, White 5-3-2-0, Keogh 6.3-3-7-0, Williams 5-1-33-0.

Warwickshire v Somerset

EDGBASTON: Warwickshire (11pts) drew with Somerset (12).

SOMERSET — First Innings 219

Second Innings
(Overnight: 277-4)

G Bartlett b Briggs 111
L Goldsworthy b Brookes 44
†J Rew lbw b Yadav.....22
L Gregory not out 10
J Davey not out 4
Extras (b4, lb6, w12) 22

Total (7 wkts dec 121 overs) ... 340
Bowling: Hannon-Dalby 22-10-45-1, Mohammed Siraj 16-8-32-1, J Yadav 37-6-95-2, Briggs 22-5-75-2, Brookes 20-1-74-1, Rhodes 4-2-9-0.

WARWICKSHIRE — 1st Innings 196

Second Innings

R Yates lbw b Khan.....11
D Sibley c Davey b Aldridge 54
A Davies c Goldsworthy b Aldridge..58
S Hain not out 52
***W Rhodes** b Brooks.....44
†M Burgess lbw b Brooks.....0
J Yadav run out.....8
D Briggs not out.....17
Extras (b3, lb7, nb2).....12

Total (6 wkts 74 overs) 256
Bowling: Davey 10-0-49-0, Gregory 19-3-50-0, Sajid Khan 18-0-77-1, Brooks 13-3-28-2, Aldridge 12-0-39-2, Lammonby 1-0-3-0, Abell 1-1-0-0.

Division II

	P	W	L	D	Bat	Bowl	Pts
Nottinghamshire	12	7	1	4	41	34	215
Middlesex	12	5	2	5	38	30	188
Glamorgan	12	5	3	4	33	31	176
Derbyshire	12	3	2	7	33	32	169
Worcestershire	12	3	3	6	33	31	160
Durham	12	2	2	8	35	28	158
Sussex	12	1	5	6	33	24	115
Leicestershire	12	0	8	4	23	25	79

Middlesex v Glamorgan

LORD'S: Middlesex (23pts) beat Glamorgan (4) by 10 wkts.

GLAMORGAN — First Innings 214

Second Innings
(Overnight: 191-8)

T van der Gugten not out 17
A Patel c Murtagh b Roland-Jones 9
M Hogan c Bamber b Roland-Jones .14
Extras (lb4, w1, nb10) 15

Total (74.5 overs) 220
Bowling: Murtagh 19-8-50-2, Roland-Jones 21.5-4-61-5, Higgins 16-2-39-1, E Bamber 12-4-36-2, Hollman 6-1-30-0.

MIDDLESEX — First Innings 390

Second Innings

M Stoneman not out 20
S Robson not out.....25
Extras 0

Total (0 wkts 5.2 overs) 45
Bowling: Harris 3-0-25-0, Patel 2.2-0-20-0.

Leicestershire v Durham

GRACE ROAD: Durham (21pts) beat Leicestershire (4) by seven wkts.

LEICESTERSHIRE — First Innings 202

Second Innings 198

DURHAM — First Innings 296

Second Innings
(Overnight: 51-2)

M Jones b Wright.....50
N Maddinson not out 31
D Bedingham not out.....19
Extras (b2, nb2).....4

Total (3 wkts 23.5 overs) 108
Bowling: Wright 10-0-42-1, M Finan 9.5-1-54-2, Scriven 2-0-5-0, Parkinson 2-0-5-0.

Sussex v Worcestershire

HOVE: Sussex (10pts) drew with Worcestershire (16).

SUSSEX — First Innings 220

Second Innings
(Overnight: 39-1)

A Orr lbw b Gibbon.....48
B Currie b Tongue 7
T Alsop not out 137
T Clark c Roderick b Pennington 36
†O Carter b Pennington 55
F Hudson-Prentice lbw b Leach.....0
J Coles not out.....8
Extras (lb2, nb6).....8

Total (6 wkts 95 overs) 312
Bowling: J Leach 17-3-61-2, D Pennington 16-4-54-2, Tongue 15-2-43-1, Gibbon 15-1-51-1, E Barnard 12-4-24-0, D'Oliveira 16-0-67-0, Libby 4-1-10-0.

WORCESTERSHIRE — First Innings 438-5 dec

● A RECORD 141 rugby teams have started out in the 2022 SOCS Daily Mail Schools Trophy. And 10 are new to the competition, organised on a merit table basis over the autumn term. One newcomer is St George's, the Harpenden school who helped put Owen Farrell and George Ford on their path to glory. St George's toppled Merchant Taylors' (Northwood) 17-7, while Hertfordshire neighbours Haileybury also made a good start, beating Felsted 18-9, captain Sam Aylwin contributing a crucial try.

Butler's mastery of the mic meant he was bigger than just rugby

by Peter Jackson
Former Daily Mail Rugby Correspondent

EDDIE BUTLER will go down in broadcasting folklore as the man who followed the toughest act in television sports commentary and took it to new heights.

That he succeeded against the odds by daring to specialise in a game long synonymous with Bill McLaren's Scottish burr made the achievement all the greater, and the colourful Welshman's sudden death yesterday all the more shocking.

Typically, Butler did it by bucking the trend, aided and abetted by his mastery of the English language. In an era when too many commentators talk too much, he spent his words as if they were £20 notes, invariably finding one to capture the moment when others would use 20.

Such economy made him a master of the less-is-more school, his skill as a wordsmith leading to the broader canvas of Olympiads and other international events far beyond rugby.

Butler's last scripted voice-over, on the global reaction to the death of the Queen, underlined his special status as a multi-dimensional broadcaster.

Nobody appreciated that more than the forthright England hooker Brian 'The Pitbull' Moore, his sparring partner and sidekick throughout an enduring Six Nations double act on BBC television which never failed to entertain and infuriate, sometimes in equal measure.

'Ed, I'm sorry I never told you how much I admired you as a broadcaster and as a man,' Moore tweeted. 'Well, it wasn't like that between us, was it? Sport has lost an iconic voice. I've lost a dear friend.'

How cruelly poignant that he should die as he lived, pushing the boundaries ever higher, this time during a hiking adventure along the Inca Trail in the Peruvian Andes where he had been accompanying his daughter Nell.

He was there not for his own agrandissement but with a band of volunteers to raise funds for the Prostate Cymru charity. They confirmed that he had 'passed away peacefully in his sleep' at a base camp.

Throughout his life, Butler specialised in confronting mountainous issues and shrinking them into molehills by the sheer dint of his personality.

As a public schoolboy and a Cambridge University graduate, he somehow found the nerve to put himself at the disposal of Pontypool RFC, then the most blue-collar of rugby clubs as well as just about the best in Britain.

Their fearsome reputation had persuaded a few English clubs, notably Leicester, to break-off fixtures rather than continue to run the risk of being beaten up at Pontypool Park on a wet Wednesday night. The posh newcomer with the matching accent soon found out why.

The new No 8 survived the initiation, albeit at the expense of the standard broken nose, gave as good as he got, and soon won the respect of a pack which included such tough hombres as the 'Viet-Gwent': the all-Wales front row of Bobby Windsor, Charlie Faulkner and Graham Price.

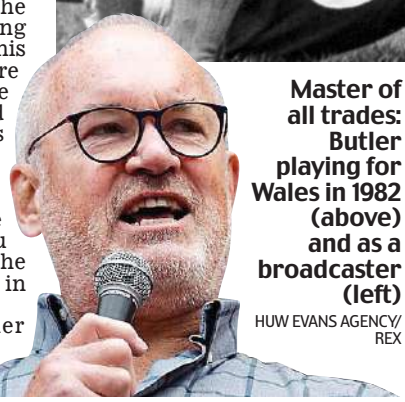
Butler loved Pontypool and they loved him, calling him 'Bamber' as in Gascoigne of *University Challenge* fame. A hard-school apprenticeship toughened him up for promotion to the Test arena. Unfortunately, his six-match reign as captain in 1983 coincided with Wales in the deepest of recessions after the feast of the sumptuous Seventies.

In post-rugby life, he went on fighting his corner, from the early days as a frustrated assistant producer at BBC Wales through the years before he got the recognition his ability demanded.

His interests extended far beyond the narrow confines of sport to major issues, like Welsh independence. Post-Brexit politics made Butler a convert to the cause but not blind to the weakness of the argument.

'There is a terrible lack of self-confidence in Wales,' he said this year. 'There's no question that we, in general, do not feel we are strong enough and even brave enough to take the responsibilities of governing ourselves.'

The broadcasting world far beyond Wales is all the poorer for losing a story-teller who had so much more to give, one who went closer to proving himself a jack of all trades and master of every one. He is survived by his wife Susan and six children.



Master of all trades: Butler playing for Wales in 1982 (above) and as a broadcaster (left)
HUW EVANS AGENCY/REX

WORCESTER FACE BEING SUSPENDED FROM TODAY

WORCESTER are on the brink of being suspended from all competition from noon today — in men's and women's rugby — if assurances are not provided that they can stage fixtures safely, given their near £30 million of debt. The RFU say the club must give 'evidence that the local authority has issued a General Safety Certificate, and confirmation of medical provision'.

BOURNEMOUTH COULD BE NEXT TOP-FLIGHT CLUB IN US HANDS

EXCLUSIVE
By SAMI MOKBEL
Chief Football Reporter

BOURNEMOUTH are in line to become the latest Premier League side to have American owners with a US-based consortium interested in buying the club.

Sources with knowledge of a proposed deal say Russian-born owner Maxim Demin is giving serious consideration to selling, although at this stage it is unclear whether the businessman is open to parting with all of the club.

The Cherries owner, who has British citizenship, is understood to have appointed US-based firm Montminy & Co to identify potential buyers or investors.

Sportsmail has learned that a group consisting of individuals with a background in American sports — including ice hockey — have expressed a firm interest in Bournemouth.

A businessman based in Las Vegas is believed to be fronting the consortium.

It has been indicated to *Sportsmail* that Demin values the club at more than £150million. Talks are believed to be under way and there has been a growing sense around the club in recent months that Demin is prepared to sell.

If a deal goes through, half the Premier League would have American owners. Most recently, Chelsea were purchased from long-time owner Roman Abramovich by billionaire businessman Todd Boehly and investment company Clearlake Capital in a deal worth £4.25billion.

In 2020, Demin considered an approach to buy the club from an Arab consortium involving members of the Abu Dhabi royal family. At the time, the proposed deal collapsed over price because the group only wanted to pay £140m, while Demin wanted significantly more.

But the American consortium are said to be more willing to pay the sort of money that would be enough to strike an agreement.

FOOTBALL DIGEST

■ JESSE MARSCH has been banned from the touchline for Leeds' clash with Aston Villa after admitting an FA charge of improper language and behaviour. The Leeds boss has also been fined £10,000 for his conduct during his side's 5-2 defeat at Brentford earlier this month. Liverpool coach John Achterberg and Newcastle's Daniel Hodges were fined and banned over their conduct at Anfield in August.

■ CHRISTOPH FREUND has refused to rule out leaving Red Bull Salzburg to become Chelsea's new sporting director. 'Chelsea is a huge club in transition,' he said after Wednesday's Champions League match between the sides. 'I can't say exactly what will happen.'

■ FORMER England goalkeeper Ben Foster, 39, has announced his retirement. Foster left Watford at the end of last season and has decided to end a career spanning almost two decades. Foster was capped eight times by England having joined Manchester United from Stoke as a youngster.

■ ANDY CARROLL has returned to Reading on a contract until January. The former Liverpool striker, 33, left the club last season for West Brom but was released by the Baggies as a free agent.

by SAMI MOKBEL
Chief Football Reporter

Ivan the Great!

Patience pays off for the England new boy who refused to give up on his ultimate goal

THERE has never been a doubt in Ivan Toney's mind that this day would eventually come.

Jamaica tried — repeatedly — to entice the 26-year-old Brentford striker into changing his mind but Toney's intentions were clear: he wanted to play for England.

There have been doubts that he'd ever achieve his ultimate goal, though not from Toney himself or those in his inner circle.

He knew — they knew — he was good enough. Playing for Jamaica would have provided Toney with an alluring opportunity; a chance for an international career.

But it's always been England for Toney. He was prepared to wait as long as necessary. He backed himself and yesterday he was vindicated.

His first England call-up may come as shock to some, certainly to those who wrote him off at various junctures in his career.

But not Toney. No way. He was convinced this would happen, it was simply a matter of time.

That's not to say he's arrogant. Far from it. Speak to those around him and they'll tell you he is modest, quiet, almost insular.

Cocky? No, though his infamous tweet poking fun at Arsenal after their opening day win over the Gunners last season points towards a degree of devilment. 'Nice kick about with the boys,' he posted after the 2-0 victory.

But just ask peripheral staff at Brentford's training ground; from the chef to the cleaner — he is respectful and humble.

Confident in his ability? Absolutely he is.

There was never a lack of faith at Brentford that Toney's time would come. All the celebratory social media content to commemorate his call-up was completed well in advance of the 2pm announcement.

Indeed, Brentford deserve their slice of credit, too. Toney's talent is beyond question, but Brentford have given the striker a platform to show the world what he is capable of when many other clubs weren't willing to make such a commitment.

Under the guidance of Thomas Frank, Toney has gone from unknown quantity to one of the most feared strikers in the country in just over two years.

'This is a fantastic day, especially for Ivan but also for everyone at Brentford,' said Bees boss Frank yesterday. 'To have someone in the England squad is something for us to cherish.'

Of course, the call-up represents a double-edged sword for Brentford. There was interest in Toney from rivals over the summer, but nowhere near enough for Brentford to even consider cashing in.

However, if Toney's career continues on this trajectory then there will come a time when Brentford will struggle to keep him.

Toney is happy in west London, invested in Frank's project. But he is fiercely ambitious and playing at the very highest level is an aspiration for the centre forward.

But all that is secondary right now. The real story is of Toney himself and his battle against rejection to reach the pinnacle of his profession.

Undisputedly one of the leaders in Brentford's dressing room, one of his most impressive traits according to those behind the scenes is his sheer will to win.

Club captain Pontus Jansson is expressive in his demeanour, a skipper in every sense of the word. But Toney is the talisman of Frank's refreshing team, setting Brentford's standards both in training and on match day. He is not always the most vocal, but it is pointed out to *Sportsmail* that Toney isn't shy in coming forward if the situation demands it.

Equally, he is able to detach himself from the all-encompassing world of football and retreating home to his young family is an important release for Toney.

And then there are the tattoos. Emblazoned across Toney's chest reads: 'Suffer the pain of discipline or suffer the pain of regret.'

The war cry is particularly poignant today. Suffering, pain and discipline — Toney knows all about that. Regrets? You would imagine he doesn't have many right now, though those who doubted him early in his career may have a few.

Signed by Newcastle as a 19-year-old after breaking through at hometown club Northampton, Toney was provided with an early taste of the big time but quickly discovered that life in the top flight wasn't what he had hoped.

Steve McClaren and Rafa Benitez, the Newcastle managers he worked under, weren't convinced and sent him out on loan.

Toney had loans at Shrewsbury, Barnsley, Wigan and Scunthorpe before leaving St James' Park permanently in August 2018, joining Peterborough.

That's not to say he was completely disregarded on Tyneside. The then-academy coach Peter Beardsley took a shine to Toney's talents — though not enough for the club to show any tangible belief in him at first-team level as he left after making just four senior appearances.

But the rejection spurred him on. Looking back, Toney's return to the lower leagues was an important factor in successfully proving his Premier League quality. It toughened him up, metaphorically and literally — Toney spent hours in the gym to ensure he wouldn't be bullied by Football League defenders intent on giving the Premier League kid a taste of the real world.

Close to 50 goals in a two-year spell at Posh earned him a move to Brentford in 2020. The Cambridgeshire club had the foresight to insert a clause in that deal which is believed to entitle them to a £1million bonus payment if he plays for England,

Two years later — and here we are. Seventeen top-flight goals since Brentford's promotion last season to add to the 33 he scored in that successful Championship season having joined from Peterborough for £5m.

Many will look at Toney's debut call-up and say he's proved people wrong. Toney looks at it differently — he's proved himself right.

Naked ambition: Toney shows off his incredible tattoos

PICTURE: KEVIN QUIGLEY

TONEY FACTFILE

- TONEY began his career at Northampton Town in 2012.
- **IN 2015, he signed for Newcastle but was sent on loan six times in three years, before he was sold to Peterborough in 2018.**
- LEAGUE ONE player of the season, scoring 24 goals.
- **BRENTFORD signed Toney in 2020 and he broke the Championship record with 31 goals to take the Bees to the Premier League.**

Lack of game time a worry for Southgate

By SAMI MOKBEL

GARETH SOUTHGATE fears the lack of first-team football a number of his key players are receiving is jeopardising England's World Cup dream. Harry Maguire, Kalvin Phillips and Luke Shaw have all been reduced to peripheral roles at their clubs, raising concern for Southgate heading into the tournament.

All three played crucial roles in England's run to the European Championship final last year — but their positions in Southgate's plans are under scrutiny due to a lack of action at club level.

And Southgate admitted: 'It is not ideal, but we feel they have been, and can be, important players for us. It is not a perfect situation but there is still a lot of football to be played before Qatar.'

Southgate, who handed Ivan Toney his first call-up and recalled Eric Dier, has also confirmed that Marcus Rashford is back on his radar after dropping the Manchester United forward from his previous two squads.

As reported by *Sportsmail* yesterday, England medics were making late checks on Rashford's fitness up until yesterday afternoon's squad announcement due to a muscular problem sustained earlier this month but he was not selected.

Elsewhere, Conor Gallagher has been left out of the 28-man squad. Ben White and James Justin are also absentees from the previous squad, while Dean Henderson is recalled to replace the injured goalkeeper Jordan Pickford.

NATIONS LEAGUE SQUAD

Goalkeepers: D Henderson, N Pope, A Ramsdale.
Defenders: T Alexander-Arnold, B Chilwell, C Coady, E Dier, M Guehi, R James, H Maguire, L Shaw, J Stones, F Tomori, K Trippier, K Walker.
Midfielders: J Bellingham, J Bowen, P Foden, J Grealish, M Mount, K Phillips, D Rice, B Saka, J Ward-Prowse.
Forwards: T Abraham, H Kane, R Sterling, I Toney.

WHY BELLINGHAM MUST START FOR ENGLAND

We want our Euros win to create a lasting buzz

BETH MEAD IS DESPERATE FOR SPOTLIGHT TO STAY ON WOMEN'S GAME AS WSL KICKS OFF TONIGHT

Role model: Mead is inspiring more young women to play football IAN WALTON

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

by Kathryn Batte
Women's Football Correspondent

AS BETH MEAD was presented with the Euro 2022 Golden Boot and Best Player award after England had triumphed over Germany, Ian Wright declared her 'revenge tour' was over.

It was a nod to how she had overcome the disappointment of missing out on selection for the Tokyo Olympics to have the best 12 months of her career.

'He invented the revenge tour himself!' Mead laughs. 'I wanted to prove to people that I was more than just the girl who didn't get picked for the Olympics.'

But with Mead nominated for the Ballon d'Or, among the favourites to win BBC Sports Personality of the Year and gearing up for a huge season with Arsenal, surely the tour is only getting started? 'You do become more hungry for success,' Mead tells *Sportsmail*. 'You get a taste of winning and, as competitive athletes, that's all you want.'

Mead's determination to continue her Euros form at club level is even greater given Arsenal ended last season — the first under boss Jonas Eidevall — trophyless, finishing one point behind champions Chelsea. 'Last season was tough,' says Mead. 'We had a pretty good season but we didn't come away with anything. As England players who have just had a taste of winning something so big, we want to go on and win more things. We feel like we're in a good place.

'We've got a couple of additions. We have an amazing group and the quality to be very, very good and hopefully that shows this season. Hopefully we can figure out those small margins that we need to get better at.'

Arsenal have pushed ticket sales since the Euros with adverts at men's matches and a social media campaign. But the club have also pumped money into improving facilities for Mead and her team-mates, who train at London Colney alongside Mikel Arteta's side. 'It's been incredible with us on the men's side of things,' she says. 'We have integrated as one team. We've got new facilities they've built over the summer.

'We've got our own section that has nutrition stations, a boot room and, as silly as it sounds, our own ice baths.

'They've invested a lot of time into us and they've listened to us as well and what we need as players. Now we've got to do the business.

'There's a lot of promotion they've put into these games and playing at the Emirates six times in the season is a big difference to playing at Boreham Wood in front of 2,000 people.

'They are pushing to help us get to the next level.'

Mead is speaking to *Sportsmail* at a Fun Football session for McDonald's, for whom she is an ambassador. The Lionesses squad wrote an open letter to the Government after the Euros, urging them to ensure that all girls have the opportunity to play football at school, something Mead is passionate about.

'With the open letter we wanted to get two hours of mandatory PE for girls,' she says. 'We knew we were in a great position to be able to try to demand that. McDonald's Fun Football sessions have been incredible. It's great that it's free and there's been a 60 per cent increase (in participation) since the Euros. We want to keep pushing that.'

Arsenal kick off the season in front of a sell-out crowd against Brighton tonight after the first round was postponed last weekend. The Gunners will also play the derby against Tottenham at the Emirates a week tomorrow and are set for a record crowd for a WSL match with more than 45,000 tickets sold.

'That's what we want. That has to become the new norm. We said, "This is just the beginning", but we want to create a lasting legacy, not one that is just going to be a buzz around the women's game for a few months.

'It's incredible stats (for tickets) so far throughout the full league. We've got to just keep pushing for that to become the new norm.

'It's for us as teams and players to deliver our best football but we need people to come to games, get bums on seats and keep the excitement around the women's game. That's the least it deserves.'

● *Beth Mead is an ambassador for McDonald's Fun Football, the UK's largest free grassroots programme that will give 1million children coaching over the next four years. Visit mcdonalds.co.uk/football*

Ticket sales soar after glory but there's work to do

By KATHRYN BATTE

EUROS fever is still alive and kicking despite the delayed start to the Women's Super League season.

Arsenal are set to smash the WSL's attendance record in next week's north London derby, having sold more than 45,000 tickets. The record crowd is currently 38,262, set when the two teams met at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in November 2019.

Every club will host at least one game at their men's stadium this season, while some have committed to more.

Manchester City have sold 20,000 tickets for their derby with Manchester United at the Etihad, which doesn't take place until December.

'It (selling tickets) is the most important thing,' said England captain and Arsenal star Leah Williamson. 'We have to be motivated to take advantage of what happened. That Euros fever is still very much alive and now it's about making (the WSL) as much of an experience as the summer was so people want to come week in, week out.'

Every WSL club has seen a huge spike in season-ticket sales, with Arsenal and Chelsea both selling out in the week after England's Euros victory. But there is still work to be done to make access easier for fans. Some clubs still force opposition fans to register accounts with them in order to purchase away tickets.

Liverpool's ticket site was down for a week shortly after the Euros while tickets for their Merseyside derby at Anfield were not available to buy until a week after the final.

Many fans are also keen to be given away ends but not every club offers this option. United fans were left disappointed when they were told they would not have an away end for their trip to Arsenal at the Emirates. However, *Sportsmail* understands that United were given the option for an away end but refused, before later reversing that decision.

A number of clubs are secretive over ticket sales, which is arguably counter-productive as it means they can miss opportunities to encourage more fans to buy tickets.

Teams are working on strategies to keep supporters coming back to games after the opening weekend and the task for every club is to ensure that interest does not tail off midway through the season. Euros fever needs to last until the World Cup takes over next summer.

JACQUI OATLEY'S GUIDE TO WSL

FIVE STARS TO WATCH...

LAUREN JAMES (CHELSEA)
TURNS 21 later this month and she's only started 11 league games, but James is such a talent, having already scored nine WSL goals. I'm excited to see what she can bring to Chelsea and England.

DEYNA CASTELLANOS (MANCHESTER CITY)
BURST on to the scene as a youngster and made the FIFA Best shortlist for top women's player in 2017. City need the Venezuela forward and other signings to gel, as they've lost so much talent and experience.

JESS PARK (EVERTON)
FAST, exciting dribbler who can play on either wing. Started eight league games last season for Manchester City but the loanee, 20, will want to be a fixture in the Everton line-up. Exciting prospect for England.

RACHEL DALY (ASTON VILLA)
LEFT BACK for England but very much a centre forward at club level. Brilliant signing who will add character and a cutting edge — just what Villa need.

MISSY BO KEARNS (LIVERPOOL)
SCOUSER, 21, who has been in the Liverpool set-up since the age of eight and was hugely influential in their promotion to the WSL. Manager Matt Beard says she's heading for the top — and he's usually right.

WHO WINS THE LEAGUE?

MOST people are looking at Chelsea but they're perhaps building a squad for the Champions League. Arsenal must hope Chelsea are so focused on Europe that they can be pipped to the title. It's between those two.

TOP-THREE BATTLE

MANCHESTER UNITED have made very good signings and kept Alessia Russo and Ella Toone, which should set up a really good battle with rivals City. Tottenham have been fantastic in the transfer market, too.

WHO'S IN TROUBLE?

LEICESTER don't have superstars, which isn't necessarily a big deal but it's only their second season at this level. Reading have a tiny budget but Kelly Chambers works miracles every season. Brighton have lost important players this summer and need the replacements to step up.

WSL THIS WEEKEND

TONIGHT
Arsenal v Brighton (7.30pm)

TOMORROW
Man Utd v Reading (12pm)

SUNDAY **Aston Villa v Man City** (12.30pm, BBC2)
Leicester v Tottenham (3pm)
West Ham v Everton (3pm)
Liverpool v Chelsea (5pm, Sky Sports).

Ronaldo and Sancho give reminders of their class

Ten Hag's big guns shoot down Sheriff to kickstart Europa bid

CHRIS WHEELER
at the Zimbru Stadium

FC SHERIFF	**0**
MAN UTD (Sancho 17, Ronaldo 39 (pen))	**2**

IT WILL need more than a well-taken goal in Moldova to convince Gareth Southgate to take Jadon Sancho to the World Cup, just as Cristiano Ronaldo's first of the season won't make him fall in love with the Europa League anytime soon.

Still, this was a step in the right direction for both players, and so too for Manchester United who put their first Group E points on the board in Chisinau last night.

Both goals came in the first half to make it a comfortable evening's work for Erik ten Hag's side as they recovered from an opening defeat by Real Sociedad at Old Trafford.

Sancho finished off an excellent team move hours after it was confirmed he had once again been left out of the England squad for games against Germany and Italy — the last before the World Cup in Qatar. There is still time for Sancho to change Southgate's mind, but he knows it is running out fast.

Ronaldo, meanwhile, got off the mark from the spot in the 39th minute. The five-time Champions League winner has made no secret of his disdain for a competition he last played in 20 years ago, but he is stuck with it for now and this goal will do him no harm after such a turbulent summer.

On the one hand, this was every bit the Thursday night experience Ronaldo had been dreading. A tiny stadium in Eastern Europe in front of an equally tiny crowd against obscure opponents like FC Sheriff — the Moldovan champions who were forced to play 50 miles from their home in Tiraspol due to the war in Ukraine.

On the other, he was given a warm welcome by fans who don't get to see Ballon d'Or winners too often. They crammed on to the balconies of the flats overlooking the Zimbru Stadium, chosen as the venue because playing at Sheriff's home ground in the Russian-backed Transnistria region was deemed too dangerous by UEFA.

The fascination with Ronaldo was clear from the moment he emerged from the tunnel to warm up, and the home supporters joined in his 'Siu' celebration when he scored before half-time to all but secure victory. Ronaldo even had to turn down a selfie request from a paramedic as he went down the tunnel at half-time.

Ten Hag named his strongest side available, helped by the fact United's game against Leeds this weekend has been postponed.

Harry Maguire was back on the bench and so was Casemiro. United's £60million signing would have been expecting to be a starter by now, but Scott McTominay isn't giving up his place easily. The Scotland international was impressive again here before making way for Casemiro at the interval.

Maguire made a late cameo in place of Lisandro Martinez, who continues to grow as a hugely popular figure among United fans.

Sancho, Christian Eriksen and Bruno Fernandes also stood out as United subdued a spirited and rather unpredictable Sheriff side, who started with no fewer than nine African players and not a Moldovan in sight.

United went ahead in the 17th minute at the end of a move that started with Sancho's throw-in on the left. The ball was passed from one side of the pitch to the other with McTominay, Eriksen, Fernandes, Antony, Ronaldo and Sancho, again, all involved.

Eriksen made the crucial pass, clipping the ball into the box for Sancho, who controlled with his right foot and feigned to shoot before switching it on to his left. It tricked Moussa Kyabou and left Gaby Kiki on his backside, before Sancho guided the ball past goalkeeper Maksym Koval.

The goal was similar to his opener against Liverpool last month in the composure he showed, as well as the skill and execution. The celebration was a nice touch, too, as Sancho took off a shin pad and held it up to reveal he was wearing the pair given to him by a young fan after the Sociedad game.

He should have had a second goal before half-time when Koval's awful kick out gifted possession to Antony, but Sancho's effort was cleared off the line.

United were gifted another opportunity moments later, however, when Patrick Kpozo needlessly clipped Diogo Dalot in the box.

Up to that point, Ronaldo had looked rather unconvincing. At 37, he appears to have lost half a yard of pace and the belief he can go past players as he once did.

That was apparent on a couple of occasions here, and when he did go through in the 33rd minute, his shot was fired high over the bar.

There was no lack of confidence as he claimed the penalty, though, grabbing the ball and placing it on the spot before beating Koval.

Maybe this Europa League isn't so bad after all.

FC SHERIFF (4-3-3): Koval 5; Zohouri 6.5, Kiki 5, Radeljic 6.5, Kpozo 5; Badolo 7, Kyabou 6, Diop 6; Akanbi 6.5 (Pernambuco 73min, 6), Atiemwen 6 (Mudasiru 81), Ouattara 6.5 (Felipe Vizeu 73, 6).
Booked: Kpozo, Atiemwen.
Manager: Stjepan Tomas 5.5.
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-3): De Gea 6.5; Dalot 7 (Shaw 70, 6), Varane 6.5, Martinez 7 (Maguire 90), Malacia 6.5; McTominay 7 (Casemiro 46, 6.5), Eriksen 7, Fernandes 6.5; Antony 6 (Garnacho 90), Ronaldo 6.5 (Elanga 81), **SANCHO 7.5**.
Scorers: Sancho 17, Ronaldo 39 (pen).
Booked: None. **Manager:** Erik ten Hag 7.
Referee: Pawel Raczkowski (Poland) 7.
Attendance: Not provided.

699
THIS was Cristiano Ronaldo's 699th club goal, with Sheriff the 124th side he's scored against. United have won five of their last six games, as many as in the previous 21.

EUROPA LEAGUE GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Real Sociedad	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	6
Man Utd	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	3
Sheriff	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
Omonia	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0

Touch of class: goalscorer Sancho lifts up a shin pad given to him last week by a young fan at Old Trafford GETTY IMAGES

No mistake: Ronaldo converts from the penalty spot REUTERS

JADON: I CAN STILL EARN A PLACE IN ENGLAND'S WORLD CUP SQUAD

By CHRIS WHEELER

JADON SANCHO refused to give up on a place in England's squad for the World Cup after firing Manchester United towards a Europa League win in Moldova last night.

Sancho scored his third goal of the season in United's 2-0 victory over FC Sheriff in Chisinau after learning that he had been left out of Gareth Southgate's squad for the Nations League games against Germany and Italy.

Those are England's last fixtures before leaving for Qatar but Sancho still believes he can claim a seat on the plane.

'Yeah, 100 per cent, that is one of the targets,' he said.

'It's unfortunate that I didn't get the call-up, but I have to just keep focusing on myself and keep on working hard, week in and week out. That's what I'll do.'

United boss Erik ten Hag also backed Sancho and Marcus Rashford to continue improving and give Southgate a headache between now and when he names his final squad.

'It's not up to me, it's up to the manager of England,' said Ten Hag. 'I cannot be in his seat, I don't want to do it. They are progressing, they started the season well and they will progress even more, I am convinced of that.

'Jadon has so much potential. He had a good pre-season and he's trying to get really fit. He has to keep going with the process.'

Ten Hag is also convinced Cristiano Ronaldo has room for improvement after the 37-year-old scored his first goal of the season, having tried to leave United in the summer.

'We could expect this when you miss pre-season,' added Ten Hag. 'He has to work really hard and invest to get the right fitness. He will score more goals. He's really close.

'When he gets more fitness he will score more.

'He's totally committed to this project, totally committed to this team, totally involved. He is constructing connections so I'm happy with that.'

The United manager was happy with the way his team bounced back from an opening Group E defeat by Real Sociedad to beat the Moldovan champions.

'After the first 10 minutes, we found our formation and we made a great goal for Jadon Sancho,' he said.

Six hundred United fans made the trip to Chisinau for their club's first ever game in Moldova, which was moved from Tiraspol because of the war in Ukraine.

They had a 'United Against Putin' banner taken off them by stadium security in the first half.

Hammers hang on to survive Silkeborg scare

SILKEBORG	2
WEST HAM	3

By AADAM PATEL

WEST HAM survived a scare in Denmark as they came from behind to make it two wins from two in the Europa Conference League.

West Ham's comeback against FCSB last week came with three second-half goals but this time around, three first-half goals in the space of 25 minutes secured the points for the visitors.

Silkeborg — managed by ex-Aston Villa defender Kent Nielsen — had never won a game in the group stages of a European competition but took a surprise early lead, thanks to a superbly taken goal by Kasper Kusk. A well-worked move saw Lukas Engel's cross find Kusk and his first-time finish left Alphonse Areola rooted to the spot.

CONFERENCE LGE GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
West Ham	2	2	0	0	6	3	3	6
Anderlecht	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	4
FCSB	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1
Silkeborg	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0

The lead lasted just seven minutes after Tobias Salquist fouled Maxwel Cornet in the box and the visitors were awarded a penalty, which Manuel Lanzini converted.

And David Moyes' side went ahead soon after as Cornet fed Gianluca Scamacca and the Italian unleashed a strike past Nicolai Larsen before he could move.

West Ham were fortunate when Silkeborg had a goal wrongly ruled out after their skipper Nicklas Helenius headed in from a corner but the referee had blown for a free-kick on Areola.

If the Europa Conference League had VAR, it would have been two apiece but instead the Hammers doubled their advantage shortly before the break when Craig Dawson — making his first start of the season — bundled in Aaron Cresswell's corner at the near post. It was Cresswell's 300th West Ham appearance and the fourth European game in succession where West Ham had scored three.

The second half seemed like an exercise in common sense until Soren Tengstedt pulled one back for Silkeborg with 15 minutes to go — blasting home to make it a nervy ending.

West Ham held on, though another tough test lies in a double-header against Belgian giants Anderlecht in October.

WEST HAM (3-4-1-2): Areola 6; Kehrer 6, Dawson 6.5, Cresswell 6.5; Coufal 5, Lanzini 6 (Coventry 90+3min), Rice 6 (Soucek 63, 5), Emerson 5; Paqueta 6 (Benrahma 63, 5); **CORNET 7.5** (Fornals 86), Scamacca 7 (Bowen 63, 5).

Booked: Cresswell.

Scorers: Lanzini 13 (pen), Scamacca 25, Dawson 38.

Referee: Fabio Verissimo (Portugal).

Lan of the hour: Lanzini (left) celebrates with Emerson REX

Castillo skips FIFA hearing

By MATT HUGHES

CHILE'S hopes of securing an extraordinary last-minute ticket to the World Cup were boosted yesterday when Ecuador's Byron Castillo failed to attend a FIFA hearing into his nationality.

FIFA had ordered Castillo to turn up for the hearing, which was conducted remotely by three judges from Zurich, after *Sportsmail* published an audio recording earlier this week of the Ecuador international revealing birth details which matched his Colombian birth certificate.

Castillo was not willing to submit to cross-examination from the judges, however, leaving Ecuador FA officials to argue his case.

The Chile FA claim to have documents proving Castillo was never eligible to represent Ecuador — a case seemingly supported by his audio confession — and that as a result they should forfeit the qualifying matches in which he played, which would send Chile to the World Cup.

FIFA have 20 days to deliver a verdict, but with the Qatar tournament just nine weeks away, they are expected to announce their decision within days.

Chile could take their case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport if FIFA rule against them but are running out of time.

WHAT'S IN ROGER'S TROPHY CABINET?

Balletic poise and freakish talent, he'd belt the ball but make it look like a sweet caress

by MIKE DICKSON
Tennis Correspondent

ROGER FEDERER was the man who always had a smile for fellow players but was never afraid to humiliate them on court if it had to be done.

Feliciano Lopez, a close contemporary and veteran of 20 years on tour, once related that nobody could blow you away in quite the same manner. 'You feel helpless against him. He does things that nobody is able to do,' observed the Spaniard.

This has been at the heart of the Federer dichotomy. Supremely polished and easy-going in civilian life, all the while a ruthless competitor who hated losing as much as anyone. Lopez was one of many who found themselves on the wrong end of the freakish talent possessed by the Swiss. With a balletic poise, he could deliver winners from almost anywhere, and land his serve with laser-guided precision.

Even when imparting great power to the ball, it looked almost like a sweet caress. That did not just intimidate opponents, but inspired some outstanding literature. It moved the late American author David Foster Wallace to write *Roger Federer as Religious Experience*.

Yet knee injuries ultimately reduced him to mortality. His announcement was not entirely unexpected, and was met with a kind of resigned acceptance. Born within 49 days of Serena Williams, the two of them have signalled their departures less than two weeks apart and tennis will never be quite the same again.

People person: Federer greets fans in 2018
GETTY IMAGES

Federer's last official appearance will be in next week's Laver Cup team event at London's O_2 Arena, across the city from the suburb of SW19 where he first became a Grand Slam champion, 19 years ago.

When he used to play in the ATP Finals at the O_2 it became known as Zurich-on-Thames, such was the voluble support he drew there — and not just from hordes of travelling or expatriate Swiss fans.

ATP tournament officials would tell you that if ticket sales were ever sluggish for a session they would put Federer in that slot, and within half an hour it would sell out. His appeal stretched way beyond where he came from, Basle, and a global poll once found him to be the world's second most respected person after Nelson Mandela.

Nobody took such care to cultivate their image to match their flawless physical gifts, or had such a good way of dealing with people, and it has been the most potent combination.

By the weekend after next he will be gone, at least at the highest official level of the game. He withdraws from the great Grand Slam title race with Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal, trailing them just on 20. None of the three would have been as good without the other two, as they drove each other on through necessity.

Such is his massive drawing power that he will still command huge audiences when playing in exhibitions. It will help add to a fortune already bolstered by an estimated $1billion of endorsements earned over his career.

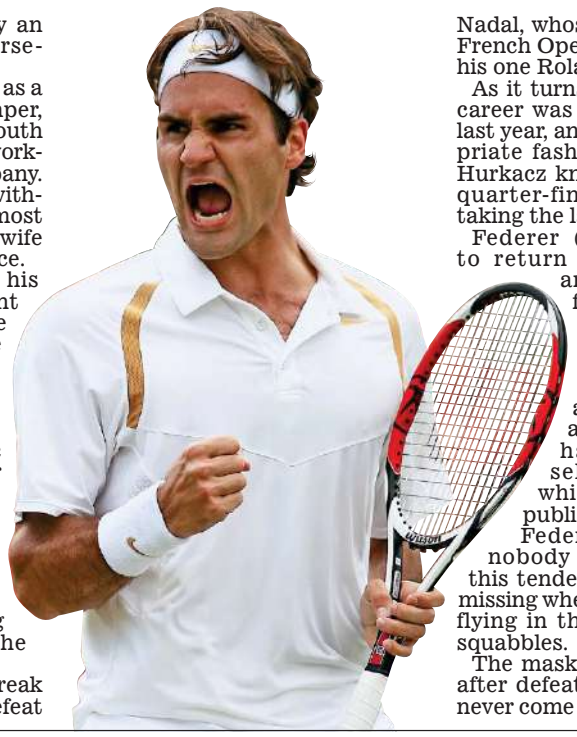
Federer arrived on the scene as a brattish teenager with a temper, the son of a Swiss father and South African mother who had met working for a pharmaceutical company. Once an adult, they sensibly withdrew from his career for the most part. His quietly formidable wife Mirka became the key influence.

Having learned to control his temperament, an extravagant talent found full range. The peak of his career came some time ago, between 2004 and 2009, when he won 14 Grand Slam titles, including five at Wimbledon.

The full flowering of Djokovic and Nadal made them harder to come by thereafter, but there was a late career spurt in 2017-18.

Arguably the most spectacular major triumph of all was the 2017 Australian Open, which he arrived at having missed the second half of the previous season.

In the final he came from a break down in the deciding set to defeat Nadal, whose rare slip at the 2009 French Open had allowed Federer his one Roland Garros title.



As it turns out, his Grand Slam career was to end at Wimbledon last year, and in the most inappropriate fashion. Poland's Hubert Hurkacz knocked him out in the quarter-finals in straight sets, taking the last 6-0.

Federer (left) was desperate to return to SW19 and make amends, but recovery from his latest knee surgery has proved beyond even him.

All his achievements were carried off with a flourish and flair, and a further dimension has been his acute self-awareness — one which has protected his public standing.

Federer is not perfect — nobody is — and sometimes this tendency would see him go missing when the political flak was flying in the sport's internecine squabbles.

The mask could sometimes slip after defeats, because losing has never come naturally, and he could be ungracious after being beaten, failing to hide his ingrained competitive streak.

YET there is also a deeply humane aspect to him, and not just when the cameras are rolling.

I recall once waiting to interview him in Miami while he went out of his way to privately meet a gravely ill young American boy and his parents. Within 20 seconds he had put them totally at ease and made them feel they were the only thing in his world. Having been given far more time than promised, the sight of them walking on air afterwards was extremely moving.

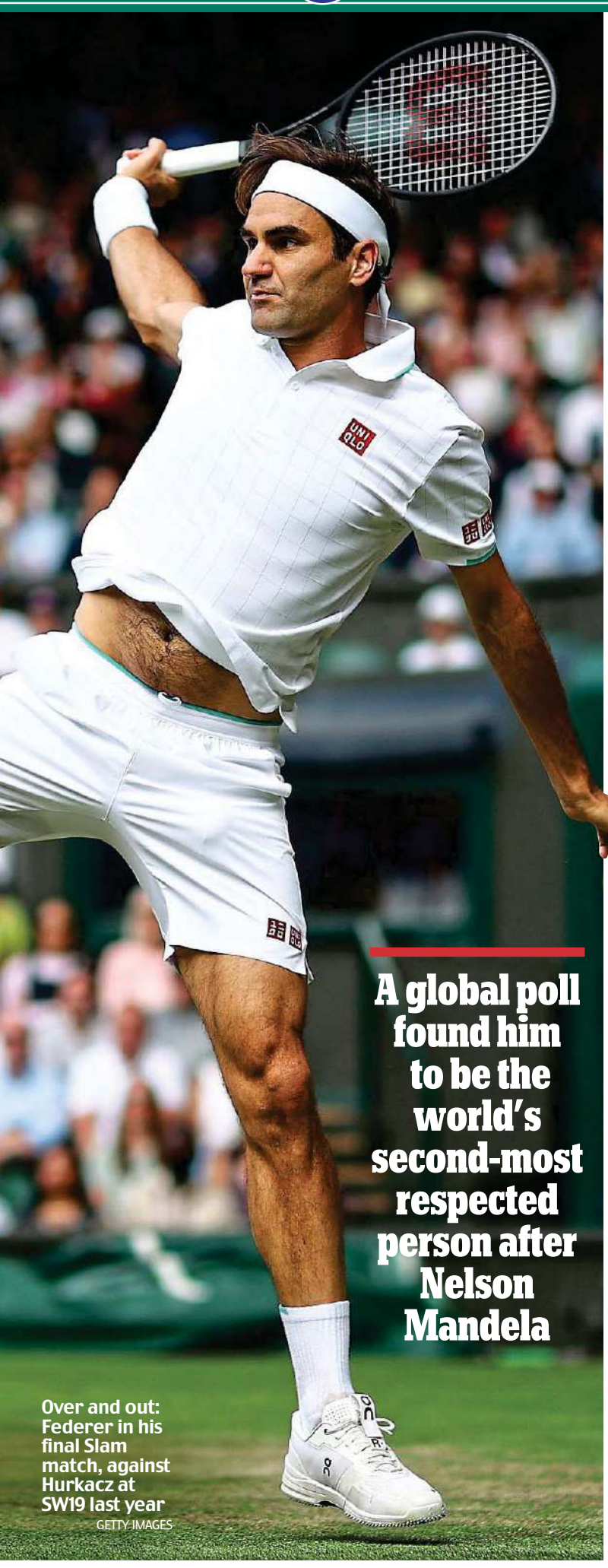
It is also telling that he is held in high esteem within the rarely seen backstage areas of tennis — the locker-room attendants handed souvenirs, the racket stringers asked if they wanted him to bring them a coffee.

Underneath it all, as one who has known him well since his teenage years puts it, he has just loved being a tennis player. He loves the travel, the locker-room banter, the

103 FEDERER won 103 singles titles — including 20 Grand Slams. That's 1,251 matches won — second to only Jimmy Connors — at a win rate of 82 per cent.

310 THE SWISS was world No1 for 310 weeks, including a record 237 in a row from 2004 to 2008. Only Novak Djokovic (373) has spent more weeks at the summit.

14 FEDERER won 20 of his 31 Grand Slam finals, including a run of 12 out of 14 between Wimbledon in 2003 and the 2008 French Open.



Over and out: Federer in his final Slam match, against Hurkacz at SW19 last year
GETTY IMAGES

Federer played with such grace that his matches belonged on the culture pages...

MARTIN SAMUEL
Chief Sports Writer

STATISTICALLY, Roger Federer does not retire as one of the two greatest tennis players to have graced the game. If Margaret Court is better than Serena Williams, then Rafa Nadal and Novak Djokovic are an improvement on Federer.

He hasn't won a Grand Slam since the 2018 Australian Open, hasn't reached the last four since 2020. His last set of Grand Slam tennis ended in a 6-0 reverse at Wimbledon in 2021.

Yet we know all of this is illusionary. With Federer's retirement, tennis has lost its greatest artist, a protagonist unlike any other, a man who elevated sport until it became almost highbrow.

At his best, Federer in full flow felt like his matches should be reviewed on the culture pages, away from the sweat and effort of the sporting arena. Comically, the man himself never seemed to break into anything as unseemly as a sweat. His opponents would toil, yet he remained sublimely aloof.

Not in reality, of course. Federer's true art was making his dedication and determination — and a very mean streak of ruthlessness — look like effortless flow. He shared epic, almost endless, gladiatorial battles against the best of the best in an era competitive and draining like never before, and all while apparently unflappable.

He announced himself on Centre Court by toppling the master across five sets. In 2001, Federer, 19, defeated Pete Sampras in the fourth round on what is traditionally known as Manic Monday. Sampras would never win Wimbledon again, his era of domination stopped at seven titles. In 2017, Federer would make it eight with a straight sets win over Marin Cilic, clinching the record. He would beat the Croatian again at the Australian Open the next year, the 20th and last of his singles titles.

'The champions' champion,' announced Billie Jean King yesterday, perhaps grasping for superlatives after exhausting 'greatest of all time' for Serena Williams in New York little more than a week ago. She described him as having the most complete game of his generation and nobody denied it.

However you wanted it played, Federer could play it. He could go on the attack or defend for his life. He was elegant, almost delicate, then crushingly powerful. He was quick on his feet, with another few metres in his brain. He was tactically astute and pounced on every chance. His forehand was arguably the greatest the game has seen.

And when Nadal made his lone slip, in the 2009 French Open, it was Federer who took advantage, beating the Spaniard's conqueror, Robin Soderling, in the final. Federer had lost the previous three finals at Roland Garros to the master of clay, but it was this that gave him his career slam. The other Slams, at his peak, he dominated.

In the four years between 2004 and 2007, he won every Wimbledon, every US Open and three out of four Australian Opens. He won Wimbledon six out of seven years between 2003 and 2009, his early style owing more than a little to that of 'Pistol Pete' Sampras, not least his fabulous serve.

Like Sampras, he could be pragmatic when necessary but that is not how fans will remember him. To them, Federer could do no wrong. He inspired loyalty and fervour, the way nations do, often turning a partisan crowd against one of their own, such was his popularity.

Watching him was a pleasure, a rare joy. He was on a par with Lionel Messi, with Sachin Tendulkar, in elevating his sport beyond the realms of athleticism. The same words recur in tributes paid by contemporaries — elegance, grace, poise, beauty, not language typically associated with sport.

Yet it was those attributes that set Federer apart. And it still takes a physical toll even if at times Federer played as if he was gliding. In 24 years, across 1,526 matches, Federer never gave in, never retired through injury. But by the end, at 41, he admitted his body was sending him painful messages. He had missed the last five Slams. It was plain the time had come.

When she issued her retirement notice, Serena Williams implied that had she been born male, she could have gone on and on. But that isn't true. Federer played through the birth of two sets of twins — and Williams has a point there — but 41 in elite sport is 41, no matter your gender. Federer knows it is time to go gracefully. In true, crowd-pleasing style he will afford his fans one last look, at the Laver Cup in London next week.

And then, like Williams, he could be anything in tennis. What a loss to the sport, those two. And in the coming days there will be much said about his genius, his artistry, about the most beautiful game.

Yet sport is prosaic, too. So here it is, the statistical deluge. Federer won 103 career titles from Milan in 2001 to Basel in 2019. He reached 10 consecutive Grand Slam finals, won 1,251 times on the ATP tour, spent 237 consecutive weeks at No1, was the oldest player to be ranked No1, won 65 consecutive matches on grass, won 24 consecutive ATP finals and won 369 Grand Slam matches.

And the greatest achievement of all? He made it all look like the flourish of a brush on canvas. What a player he was, and what an artist.

Style and substance: Roger Federer lifts his fifth Wimbledon trophy back in 2007
ANDY HOOPER

A global poll found him to be the world's second-most respected person after Nelson Mandela

competition and even the unseen hard grind that has enabled it all.

As his close friend Tim Henman remarked: 'He is unbelievably grounded and good with people. He embraced every aspect of tour life and is a very special person.

'I played Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras at their best and Nadal and Djokovic before they reached their peak, and Roger was the best I faced. He could dominate you with every shot and do everything. He has been the complete player.'

Soon he will be lost to the professional game, and it feels that tennis's great realignment is coming on quicker than ever.

Crunch time for GB as Emma suffers again

GREAT BRITAIN face a must-win Davis Cup tie against the Netherlands in Glasgow today. With two teams going through from this week's four-nation group stage to the World Finals in November, GB cannot afford to slip up after suffering a 2-1 loss to America that finished at 1am yesterday. The Dutch ought to be less formidable opposition but are still dangerous. Captain Leon Smith may shuffle his team with Andy Murray coming in to play singles ahead of Dan Evans.

Meanwhile, Emma Raducanu suffered another injury scare in defeat by Anna-Lena Friedsam in Portoroz. The top seed fell to a 7-5, 0-6, 6-3 defeat in the second round. Raducanu took a medical timeout in the first set and had her left thigh heavily strapped.

GREAT BRITAIN v NETHERLANDS

Start: 3pm, Emirates Arena, Glasgow. **TV:** **LIVE** on BBC iPlayer.

Wimbledon icon Federer calls time on his historic career

TENNIS HAS LOST ITS GREATEST ARTIST

High and mighty: Federer on his way to winning the 2007 Australian Open GETTY IMAGES

By MIKE DICKSON Tennis Correspondent

ROGER FEDERER, for many the finest player to pick up a racket, has announced his retirement.

The 41-year-old, winner of 20 Grand Slam titles including a record eight Wimbledon crowns, will bring the curtain down on his remarkable career after the Laver Cup in London this month.

'My body's message to me lately has been clear,' said Federer, who has struggled with a knee problem for the past three years.

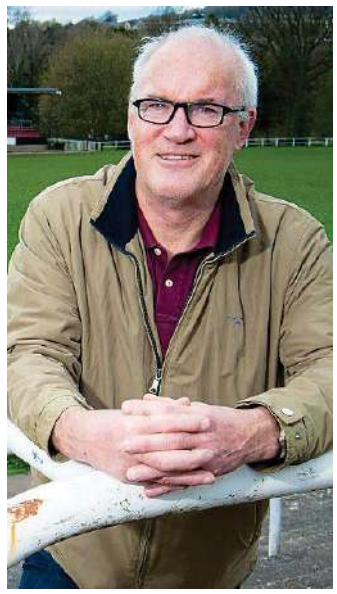
'I have played more than 1,500 matches over 24 years. Now I must recognise when it is time to end my competitive career.'

« MARTIN SAMUEL AND MIKE DICKSON ON A TENNIS LEGEND: PAGES 86-87

FC SHERIFF...0 MAN UTD.....2

RONALDO SPOT ON AS UNITED CRUISE

MATCH REPORT: PAGES 84-85



RUGBY MOURNS EDDIE BUTLER

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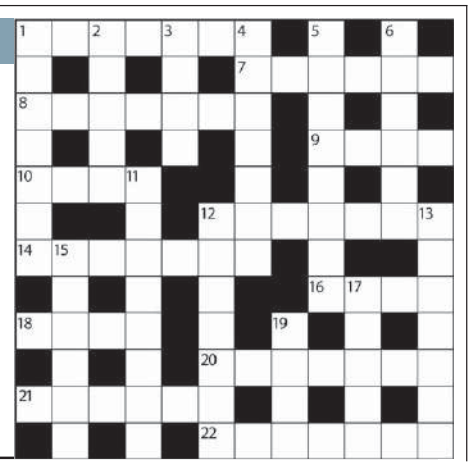
QUICK CROSSWORD 9,270

ACROSS
1 Several different (7)
7 Front foremost (4-2)
8 Large French country house (7)
9 Osculate (4)
10 Porridge grains (4)
12 Plant type (7)
14 Meeting for discussion (7)
16 Arm or leg (4)
18 Rain heavily (4)
20 Take advantage of (7)
21 Albanian capital (6)
22 Become smitten with (4,3)

DOWN
1 Cruel (7)
2 Cook in an oven (5)
3 Unlock (4)
4 Shiver (7)
5 Provide the capital for (8)
6 Japanese dwarf tree (6)
11 Motoring term (4,4)
12 Laurel tree herb (3,4)
13 Referee (7)
15 Originating in a foreign country (6)
17 Term used in billiards (2-3)
19 Gemstone (4)

THURSDAY'S SOLUTION (NO 9,269) – ACROSS: 1 Put to flight. 7 Clam. 8 Also-ran. 9 Arc. 10 Salsa. 11 Rehome. 13 To hand. 16 Minus. 18 End. 19 Last out. 20 Arms. 21 Rapeseed oil. DOWN: 1 Polite. 2 Tomato. 3 Oracle. 4 Lists. 5 Gorilla. 6 Tankard. 11 Rambler. 12 Hangs up. 13 Teethe. 14 Had a go. 15 Normal. 17 Spots.

SOLUTION TOMORROW



Rangers escape UEFA rap

EXCLUSIVE by MIKE KEEGAN and CRAIG HOPE

RANGERS will not be punished for playing the national anthem at Ibrox, despite UEFA rejecting their request to do so.

The Glasgow club — along with Manchester City and Chelsea — asked to play *God Save the King* before their Champions League matches this week, following the Queen's death.

UEFA sparked outrage when they said no — a move revealed by *Sportsmail* — stating they had to ensure the build-up to every match was 'consistent'.

Rangers played the national anthem regardless after a minute's silence with thousands — including players — joining in a rousing rendition.

Now UEFA have confirmed they will not be punishing the club. Celtic face disciplinary proceedings, though, after fans displayed an anti-monarchy banner before the game against Shakhtar Donetsk in Warsaw.

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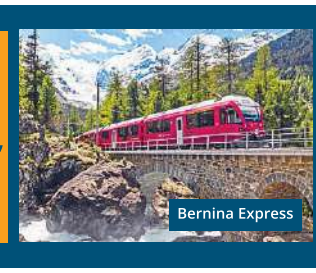

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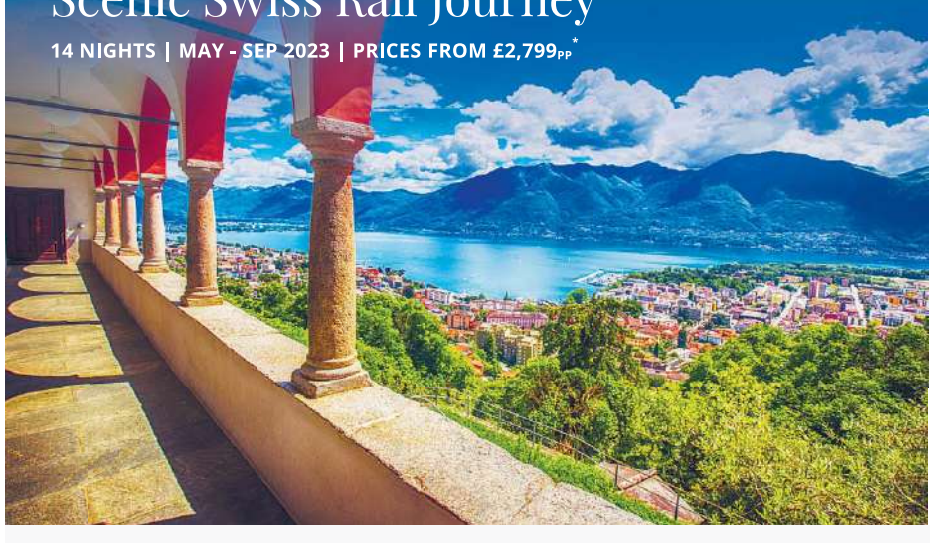

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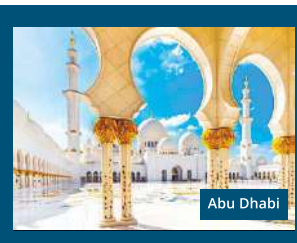

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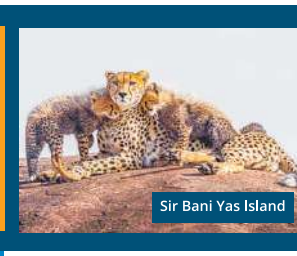

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Dubai Stay & Highlights of Arabia Cruise

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BRAND NEW SHIP | AMAZING VALUE

PRICES PER PERSON FROM*	INTERIOR	OCEAN VIEW	BALCONY
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MSC CRUISES

3 Night All-Inclusive Hotel Upgrade^

Situated on the Deira Islands beachfront and offering 24-hour **all-inclusive** stays to make your holiday a unique experience, the Hotel RIU Dubai is an excellent choice for your dazzling Dubai escape. From a sumptuous spa to thrilling entertainment areas, various themed restaurants to the Splash Water World aqua park, you'll be amazed by this hotel's exhilarating attractions.

Enjoy a three-night hotel break in fascinating Dubai, before cruising the many coastal highlights of the Arabian Gulf.

Begin your holiday with three-night hotel stay in Dubai. This scintillating city is home to world-famous landmarks, record-breaking architecture and Arabian traditions dating back to when it was just a tiny pearl-fishing village. These days it's firmly on the tourist map, thanks to towering buildings like the Burj Khalifa, incredible water parks and mega-malls that are home to everything from indoor ski slopes to shark-filled aquariums. Although for a more traditional taste of Dubai, why not wander the old souks near the creek, or take a desert safari in a four-wheel-drive and catch a crimson sunset over the rolling sand dunes.

Following your stay, you'll embark on the brand new MSC World Europa, a ship offering a unique and cutting-edge, high-class environment, where modern sophistication really will come to life amid an array of sleek spaces and the utmost of premium facilities.

Highlights of your voyage will go on to include Abu Dhabi, home to the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, the jaw-dropping marble triumph of soaring minarets and onion domes, Sir Bani Yas Island - a sprawling wildlife reserve – as well as the sparkling skyline of Doha, Qatar's capital and host of 2022's Football World Cup.

This *amazing* holiday includes:

Cruise

7 night full-board cruise on board the brand new MSC World Europa

^Book a Balcony cabin and receive the following:
- FREE Premium Extra drinks package**

Visiting: Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sir Bani Yas Island, Dammam (Saudi Arabia), Doha, Dubai (overnight in port)

Hotel Stay

3 night four-star hotel stay at the Hyatt Place Dubai Jumeirah with breakfast

^Book a Balcony cabin and receive a 3 night all-inclusive stay at the Hotel RIU Dubai

- Pamper yourself at the relaxing spa, with a sauna and hydromassage bathtub
- Enjoy the thrills at the Splash Water World aqua park or take a dip in the pool with swim-up bar
- Sample a wide range of dining options serving Asian, Italian and Lebanese dishes, as well as breakfasts and lunches with live cooking stations
- This fantastic beach-front hotel lies on the man-made Deira Island

All Emirates flights

(London departure - regional flights available)

*Prices based on 18 January 2023 departure.
**All beverages priced up to €13.

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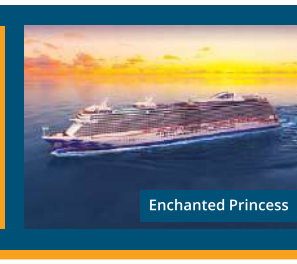
SAVE UP TO £1,400 PER COUPLE+

14 NIGHTS FROM ONLY £1,499PP^



All-Inclusive Luxury

Rhodes Stay & Mediterranean Cruise

14 NIGHTS | APR - OCT 2023 | PRICES FR £1,499PP^

AMAZING VALUE

PRICES PER PERSON FROM^	INTERIOR	BALCONY	MINI-SUITE
	£1,499pp	£1,799pp	£2,299pp

PRINCESS

Behold the regality of Rhodes for seven nights before embarking Enchanted Princess for a cruise around the magnificent Mediterranean, taking in beautiful Santorini and Naples.

Your Mediterranean escape begins with a superb, seven-night, five-star stay at the Rodos Mitsis Resort and Spa. Perched on the Blue Flag awarded Kiotari beach, the crystal-clear waters are excellent for snorkelling. With premium facilities and fine dining experiences, this is a great choice for couples and families looking for a touch of luxury in a quiet location, with a relaxed atmosphere.

Fly to Athens and embark Enchanted Princess to begin your cruise. Highlights will include the gorgeous Greek island of Santorini – whose beauty is supposedly incomparable to any other island in the world – and Montenegro's fortified Kotor. You'll next visit Sicily's buoyant Messina, well known for its Norman Messina Cathedral.

Your penultimate destination will be Naples. Naturally, you'll be able to lose yourself in the tragic history of nearby Pompeii, or simply behold the stunning scenery of the Amalfi Coast.

This *amazing* holiday includes:

Cruise

7 night full-board cruise on board Enchanted Princess

- Enjoy your favourite drinks with friends and family as an ever-changing variety of live performers take to the stage to entertain you
- Step into Crooners and be transported back to the Sinatra era, complete with a pianist singing the classics and menu of signature cocktails

Visiting: Piraeus (Athens), Santorini, Kotor, Messina (Sicily), Naples, Barcelona

All-Inclusive Hotel Stay

7 night five-star all-inclusive hotel stay in Rhodes at the Rodos Mitsis Resort and Spa

All flights & transfers

(London departure - regional flights available)
Includes internal flight transfer from Rhodes to Athens

^Prices based on 22 April 2023 departure. +Prices shown include discount and savings are based on two passengers sharing a Mini-Suite departing 5 August 2023.

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Mail Puzzles

THE BEST BRAIN TEASERS EVERY DAY!

SUDOKU

FILL in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9. **SOLUTIONS ON MONDAY**

	8							
7						9		
	1				4			5
			2	4				1
			3	9				4
6	9							3
1	7	9			8		6	
2		8	6				7	
	6				7	5		

Difficulty rating ★★★★★

		1	2		9			
6			4				2	5
	7		5				6	
4	5		6			3		
			9	3	4	6		7
				1		9		
7	1	5				4		
				4				

Difficulty rating ★★★☆☆

PRIZE SUDOKU

		2	6	7				
7				4		3		5
	4	3	5					9
	7	8		9				
4						1		
	5		3	1			6	4
3			9			5		
					5	9	1	8

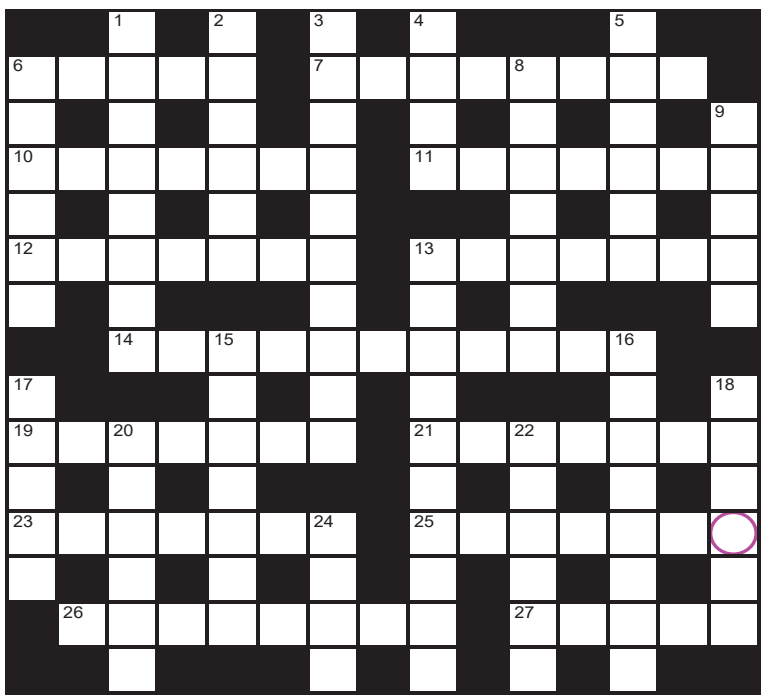
WIN £500

REVEAL the three shaded squares for your chance to win £500. **HOW TO ENTER:** Call **0901 292 5009** and leave today's three-number answer (reading left to right) and your details. Or text **SUDOKU** to **65700** with your answer and name. Texts and calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. One weekly winner chosen from all correct entries received between 00.01 Monday and 23.59 Friday. Answers change daily at 00.01. UK residents aged 18+, excl NI. Full terms apply, see Page 64.

For news and updates visit mailplus.co.uk

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

WIN A LUXURY CROSS PEN SEE BELOW



PLAY our accumulator game! For your chance to win a Cross ballpoint pen, solve the crossword to reveal the letter in the pink circle. If you have been playing since Monday, you should now have a five-letter word. To enter, call 0901 133 4423 and leave your answer and details. Or text 65700 with the word FIVE and your answer and name.

■ TEXTS and calls cost 50p plus standard network charges. One winner chosen from all correct entries received between 00.01 today and 23.59 this Sunday. UK residents aged 18+ excl NI. Full terms apply, see Page 64.

WRITE YOUR LETTERS IN THESE SQUARES

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri

ACROSS

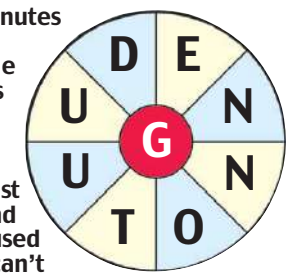
6 Tokio, British pianist who won the 11th series of Britain's Got Talent in 2017 (5)
7 The ___ Progress, allegorical novel by writer John Bunyan, published in 1678 (8)
10 Describing work that uses ridicule and scorn to criticise folly or vice (7)
11 To raise to a higher standard, especially equipment by replacing or adding components (7)
12 ___ point, a dot that separates a whole number from its fractional part (7)
13 A black mixture of hydrocarbons that is commonly used to surface roads (7)
14 Global ___ system or GPS, a satellite-based radionavigation system (11)
19 A pirate, especially one operating along the southern shore of the Mediterranean (7)
21 Ally, Scottish ex-striker who played for Rangers FC in Glasgow (7)
23 Dockside district of east London that contains the Thames River Police Museum (7)
25 City and seaport in northeastern Italy that includes Miramare Castle (7)
26 A preparation applied to the face to improve its appearance (8)
27 Alan, U.S. actor who voiced Duke Weaselton in the 2016 animated comedy film Zootropolis (5)

DOWN

1 A very poisonous fungus of the genus Amanita often mistaken for an edible mushroom (5,3)
2 A hermitage or religious retreat, especially in southern Asia (6)
3 One who invests in stocks, property and other ventures to make a profit (10)
4 Cordon ___, denoting the highest standard of quality in cooking (4)
5 To preserve a corpse from decay, usually with an injection of preservative (6)
6 To put together two or more numbers incorrectly (6)
8 Pirate in the Pirates Of The Caribbean film series with a false eye (7)
9 Two a ___, expression meaning 'in abundant supply and of little value' (5)
13 Item used by a witch in traditional depictions (10)
15 A sports ground with tiers of seats for spectators (7)
16 A ballet movement typically used as a joining step (8)
17 An angry or bad-tempered expression (5)
18 A sudden flash of lightning (6)
20 School in southern Derbyshire attended by British writer Roald Dahl (6)
22 A printed cotton fabric with a glazed finish used for curtains and upholstery (6)
24 An obstacle consisting of two markers in slalom competitions (4)

SOLUTION ON MONDAY

WORD WHEEL



YOU have ten minutes to find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each word must use the hub letter and at least three others, and letters may be used only once. You can't use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. Verbs ending in 's' permitted. Clue for today's nine-letter word: Dug one nut weirdly and shot easily. RATING: 8 words, average; 12, good; 16, very good; 18 or more, excellent. SOLUTION TOMORROW

SUDOKU X

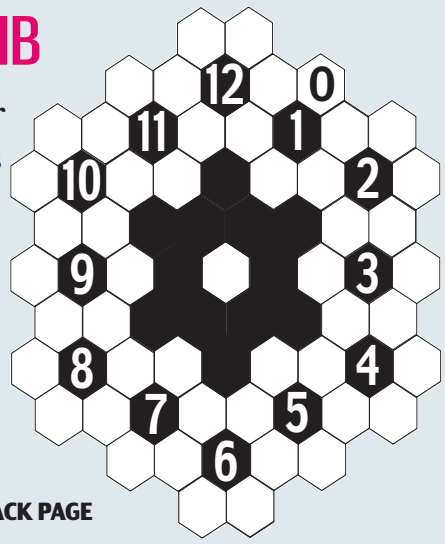
				2	
					3
5	2				
					1
		6			

PUT 1-6 once in each row, column, diagonal (highlighted to form an X) and horizontal 3x2 box (ruled). SOLUTION ON MONDAY

HONEYCOMB

ALL the solutions read clockwise around their numbers. The solution to clue number 1 starts from the given letter.

1. Seas
2. Middle
3. Fear
4. Plaster
5. Mottle
6. Truck (4-2)
7. Martial art (4,2)
8. Calling
9. Metal
10. Cauldron
11. Bondage
12. Growls

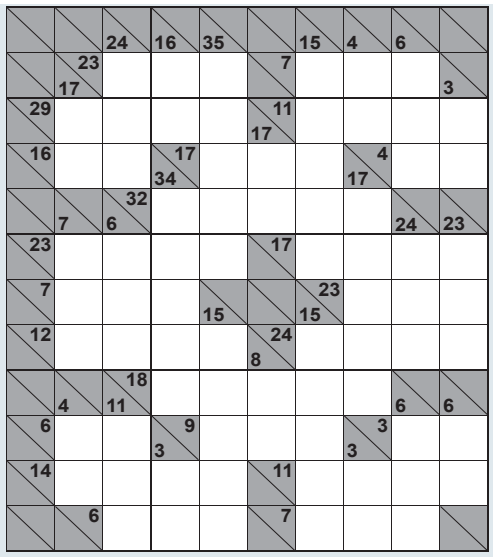


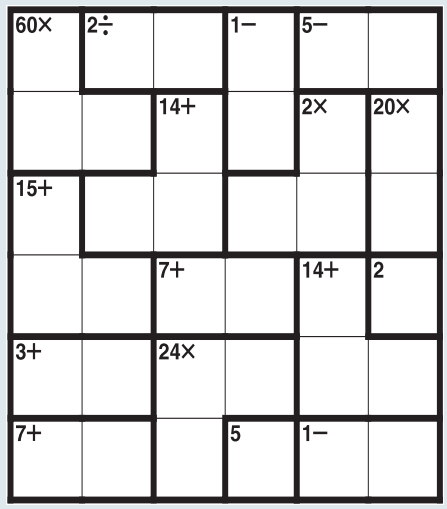
SOLUTION: PULLOUT BACK PAGE

KAKURO

FILL in the blank squares of the grid using only the numbers 1 to 9, without repeating any number in any line of blank squares. The lines must be filled in with numbers which add up to the total in the shaded box at the top or beginning of each line. A number in the bottom half of a shaded box gives a downwards total; in the top half, it's a horizontal total.

SOLUTION ON MONDAY





MASTERQUIZ

1. In which country was the Nobel Prize-winning physicist Dennis Gabor born?

2. Which book of the Old Testament contains the Song Of Deborah, and describes the victory of the Israelites at the battle of Mount Tabor?

3. What sort of creature is a cockchafer?

4. The prime minister of which European country came under fire after videos and images of parties at their official residence and elsewhere appeared on social media recently?

5. Which Italian film director made The Gospel According To Matthew and The Decameron?

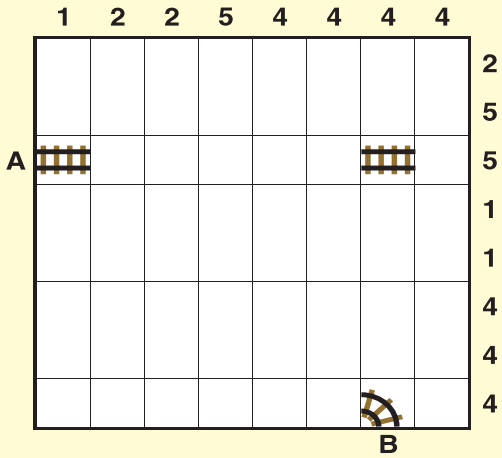
6. Which institution is the English philanthropist Robert Raikes noted for promoting in the 1780s?

SOLUTION: PULLOUT BACK PAGE

TRAIN TRACKS

LAY tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

SOLUTION ON MONDAY



MINDBENDER

1. Three consecutive numbers are multiplied together to give 336. What are the three numbers?

2. What connects grappling, smoothing and soldering?

3. Which newspaper owner could be a THRUM PRODUCER?

4. Which is the odd one out: Revenge Of The Sith, The Wrath Of Khan, The Phantom Menace, Attack Of The Clones?

5. Which three-letter word completes the following longer words: ---lass, s---tle, a---ely, prose---e?

SOLUTION: PULLOUT BACK PAGE

PITCHERWITS™

PIT your wits against Pitcherwits — the exciting puzzle where some of the answers are in pictures! The solutions to the visual clues fit into the shaded spaces on the grid.

SOLUTION ON MONDAY

1a. Noticeably reduce a peculiarly dank matinee performance (4,1,4,2)

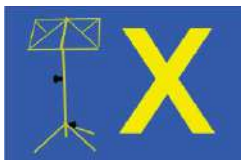
8a. Plead to adapt to the little frog (7)

11a. Makes a reservation, trying to knock out bison (5,2)

16a. It says you must denote a fussy problem (5,2,4)

1d. Shells to molluscs? Or places to park a phone? (6,5)

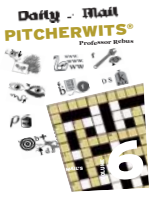
4d. High clan that is a straight talking social group, say? (5,6)



6d. What you are on, in case (7)

7d. Learning points from the lectern? (7)

PITCHERWITS BOOK



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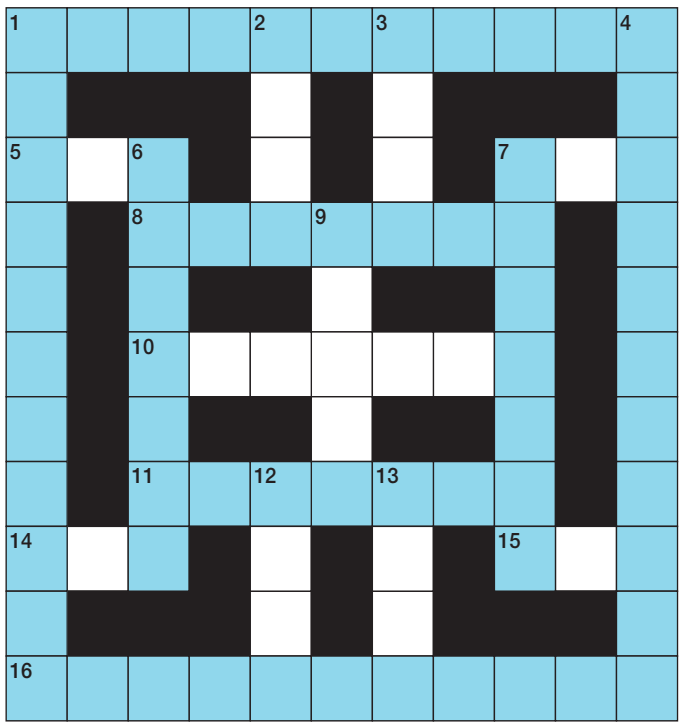


ACROSS
1 Picture Clue
5 Somewhat abusive form of transport? (3)
7 Embalming, back in scientists' little workplace (3)
8 Picture Clue
10 Saunter off with essential qualities (7)
11 Picture Clue
14 Theresa, who could lead the way for a month (3)
15 Jump at a bit of busking! (3)
16 Picture Clue

DOWN
1 Picture Clue
2 Retired to do some beadwork (4)
3 Copy? That's sound! (4)
4 Picture Clue
6 Picture Clue
7 Picture Clue
9 The courage to pull out sharply! (5)
12 Monster dog replaced from within (4)
13 Ruffles the back, in return for an ego (4)

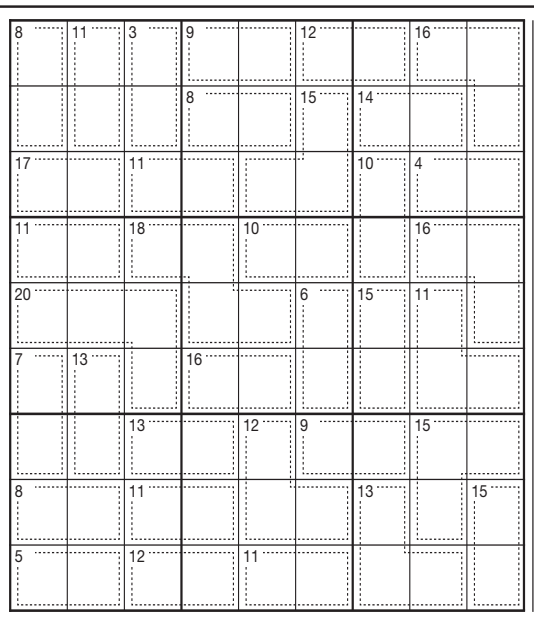
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION — ACROSS: 1 Henceforth. 6 Solo. 7 Mac. 8 Hiss. 9 A bad time. 11 Mona Lisa. 14 Rota. 15 Ewe. 16 Magi. 17 Aero engine. **DOWN:** 1 High summer. 2 Cassava. 3 Ovoid. 4 Tempi. 5 Acceptable. 10 Tearing. 12 Niece. 13 Limbo.

KILLER SUDOKU

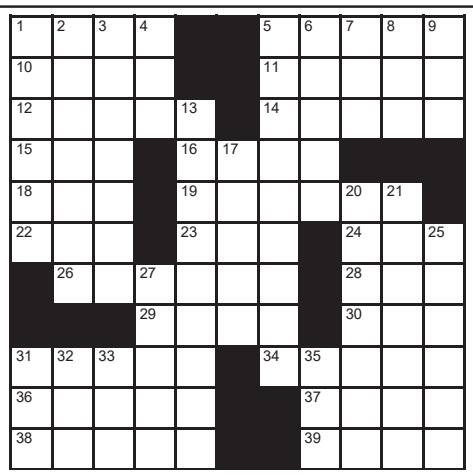
FILL in squares in the grid so each row, column and each 3x3 square contains all digits from 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the number in the top-left corner. Numbers can't be repeated within each set of cells.

SOLUTION ON MONDAY

NEED A CLUE? Call **0901 293 6238** or text **KILLER** to **65700** and receive four clues to today's puzzle. Calls and texts cost £1 plus your standard network charges. Today's clues available between 00.01 today and 23.30 only.



MAILWORD NEW



ACROSS
1 Lecherous look
5 --- Newton, mathematician
10 Cot
11 Argentinian dance
12 Vaults
14 List of contents
15 Wonder
16 Suggestion
18 --- Appia, Roman road
19 Models
22 Finish
23 Average
24 Obsolete unit of length
26 Japanese courtesan
28 Assam, e.g.
29 Norse god
30 Disapproving sound
31 Away from land
34 Adolescent
36 Bog
37 Throbbing pain
38 Gang
39 --- Daly, English television personality

DOWN
1 Musical interval
2 Developing
3 Citrus drink
4 Flow back
5 Journey plan
6 --- Cruz, Tenerife city
7 In addition
8 Become older
9 Helmsman
13 Orderly
17 43rd U.S. state
20 Salad plant
21 Investigators
25 Woodworking tools
27 Articles
31 Venomous snake
32 Duo
33 Crack force
35 Cereal plant

SOLUTION ON MONDAY

QUICK QUIZ

1. In football, Portman Road is the home ground of which English club?

2. In Dad's Army, what is the occupation of Lance Corporal Jones?

3. A guitar that featured in the music video for which single by U.S. rock band Foo Fighters was recently auctioned in Wiltshire?

4. Hz is the abbreviation for which SI unit of frequency?

5. Which environmental organisation owned the Rainbow Warrior, sunk by French intelligence in 1985?

SOLUTION: PULLOUT BACK PAGE

KENKEN

EACH row and column should contain 1 to 6 without repeats. Numbers in cages must combine to produce the target number shown at start of that cage using, in any order, the mathematical sign given. Single-box cages can be filled with the number given.

SOLUTION ON MONDAY

DEPILATOR NINE TO FIVE

	G	M	A	
P				S
G				D
G				E
	E	F	T	

FIT the scrambled letters of the given word into the grid to form six five-letter words across and down.

SOLUTION ON MONDAY

WORLD'S SMALLEST, HARDEST CROSSWORD

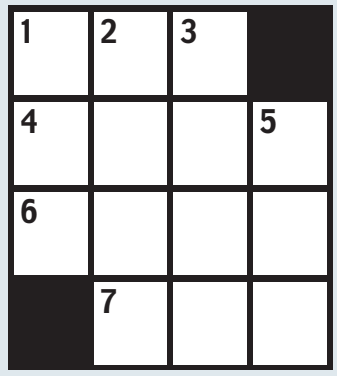
ACROSS

1. Informal assent (3)
4. Field of study (4)
6. Toot a horn (4)
7. A drink (colloq) (3)

DOWN

1. Foolish talk (3)
2. A natron (4)
3. A honey buzzard (4)
5. Simian (3)

SOLUTION TOMORROW



CROSS NUMBER

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE SOLUTION

By Linus Maurer ©2015 King Features Inc.

FILL each square with a number, 1 to 9. Horizontal squares add up to totals on right. Vertical squares add up to totals on bottom. Diagonal squares through centre add up to totals in top and bottom right.

SOLUTION ON MONDAY

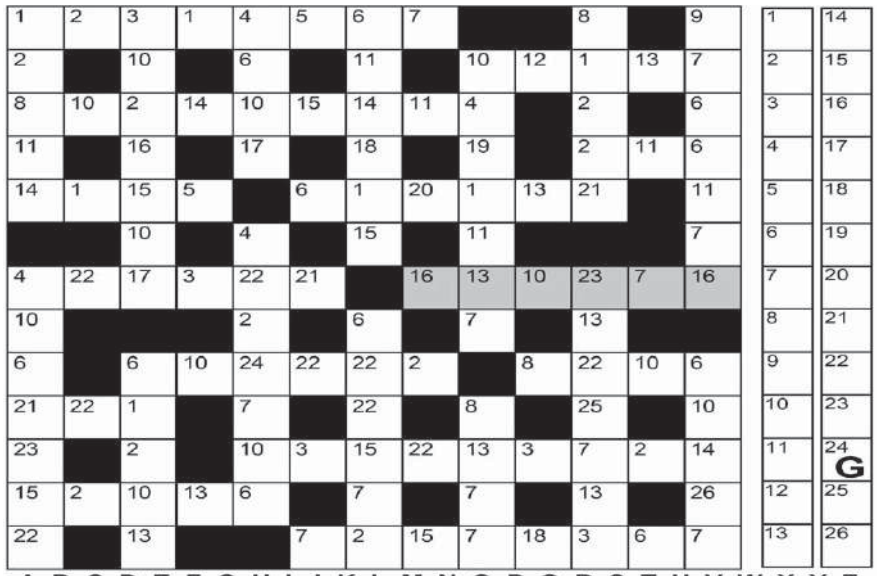
Today's challenge time: **1** mins **28** secs | Your working time: ☐ mins ☐ secs

CODEWORD

WIN £750

EACH number in our Codeword grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. Today 24 represents G, so fill in G every time the figure 24 appears. You have one letter in the control grid to start you off. Enter it in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares. SOLUTION TOMORROW

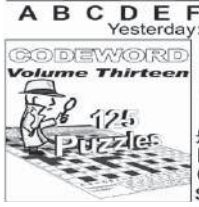
COMPLETE Codeword to reveal the word in the shaded boxes.
HOW TO ENTER: Call **0901 293 6232** and leave your answer and your details or text **65700** with the word **CODE**, your answer and then your name. Texts and calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. One weekly winner chosen from all correct daily entries received between 00.01 Monday and 23.59 Saturday. Answers change daily at 00.01. UK residents aged 18+, excl NI. Terms apply, see Page 64.



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Yesterday:

1 S	2 I	3 C	4 W	5 A	6 D	7 R	8 E	9 K	10 T	11 Y	12 J	13 U
14 N	15 M	16 P	17 H	18 B	19 V	20 Q	21 G	22 Z	23 L	24 X	25 O	26 F



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NEED A CLUE? Text the word **CODEWORD** to **65700** to receive FOUR clues to today's puzzle or call **0901 293 6200**. Texts and calls cost £1 plus your standard network charges. Today's clues available between 00.01 today and 23.30 only.

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS

■ The board on the right shows four rows of letters from a typical Scrabble game. Use each row to form a word of 2-7 letters and write it in the blank squares provided. Then add up the score for each row. Don't forget to use the double and triple word and letter scores — and add a 50-point bonus for every 7-letter word. Blank tiles can be used for any letter but have no score. See Monday's paper for the solution.

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L1	K5	B3	O1	E1	I1	H4	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
B3	A1	C3	M3	S1	A1	U1	Double Word Score	RACK 2
M3	A1	E1	T1	I1	L1	C3		RACK 3
R1	C3	P3	E1	I1	A1	P3		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 195-205
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

Yesterday's solution:
INCLUDE 70
CONFORM 65
PHOTONS 86
TIMELY 22
JUDD'S TOTAL: 243

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WORD SEARCH

WIN £500

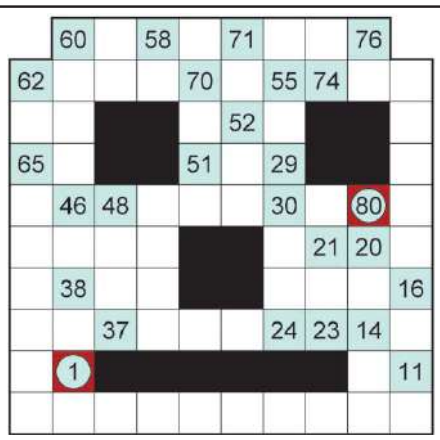
THE listed words can all be found in the grid — running forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonally — EXCEPT ONE. For a chance to win, discover which word from the list can't be found in the Word Search.

D	E	M	A	G	D	N	E	R
S	E	C	N	E	F	E	N	E
B	T	T	N	Y	U	G	O	L
R	S	Y	R	W	L	A	I	B
U	U	K	Z	S	M	H	L	A
G	A	U	U	A	V	N	A	G
T	F	U	D	P	W	E	M	A
E	U	J	D	N	K	O	Y	D
S	M	K	Z	S	Y	C	P	E
N	N	W	O	T	R	U	O	H

AMADEUS
ARCADIA
COPENHAGEN
ENDGAME
EQUUS
FAUST
FENCES
HEDDA GABLER
OUR TOWN
PYGMALION

HOW TO ENTER: Call **0901 293 6234** and leave your answer and details or text **65700** with the word **WORD**, your answer and your name. Texts and calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. One winner chosen from all correct daily entries received between 00.01 Monday and 23.59 Friday. Answers change daily at 00.01. UK residents aged 18+, excl NI. Terms apply, see Page 64. **SOLUTION ON MONDAY**

HIDATO



COMPLETE the grid so that all the numbers, 1 to 80, connect consecutively — horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Hint: you don't have to begin with 1 or 80. Working on the mid-numbers might give you a better start. SOLUTION ON MONDAY

NAME GAME

HIDDEN in the grid is the name of a filmmaker. Answer the questions, then rearrange the letters corresponding to your answers to fill in the name. SOLUTION ON MONDAY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

BOX 1: Chris Columbus (pictured) directed how many of the Harry Potter films?
Two (P) Three (K) Four (R)

BOX 2: Which actor played He-Man in the 1987 film Masters Of The Universe?
Sam J. Jones (F)
Dolph Lundgren (I)
Patrick Swayze (N)

BOX 3: Who, in Greek mythology, was a giant bronze automaton who protected Crete from invaders?
Typhon (A)
Asclepius (W)
Talos (R)

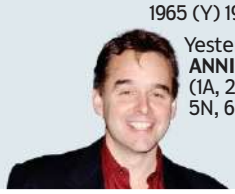
BOX 4: Which Beatrix Potter book features a young girl named Lucie?
The Tale Of Mrs Tiggy-Winkle (D)
The Tailor Of Gloucester (E)
The Tale Of Tom Kitten (M)

BOX 5: Which actor is playing the title role in the upcoming Star Wars TV spinoff Andor?
Lin-Manuel Miranda (C)
Jared Leto (J)
Diego Luna (L)

BOX 6: The Earth's lowest land-based elevation is at which of the following locations?
Red Sea (P)
Dead Sea (O)
Sea of Galilee (L)

BOX 7: The British writer Anthony Horowitz created which of these literary characters?
Alex Rider (L)
Alex Mack (B)
Alex Fierro (U)

BOX 8: In what year did the original Woodstock music festival take place?
1965 (Y) 1967 (O) 1969 (H)

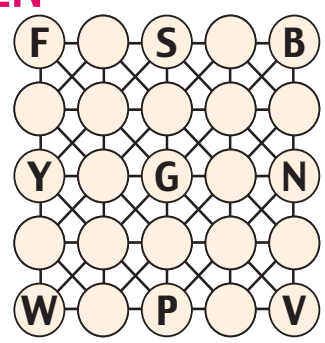


Yesterday's answer: **ANNIE MAC** (1A, 2C, 3E, 4A, 5N, 6M, 7I, 8N).

Picture: PA

GOGEN

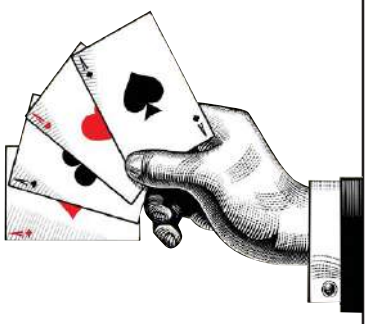
BLUNDER
CHOMPED
DERV
EQUITY
FACTS
JUICY
OPEN
POKY
SIGH
SIXTY
SLICK
WHOM



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y

INSERT letters to form listed words, moving between adjacent cells horizontally, vertically or diagonally in any direction. Insert all remaining letters of the alphabet (except Z) in the grid so all listed words are spelt out. SOLUTION ON MONDAY

BRIDGE MASTERCLASS



North
♠ A 8 4
♥ A Q 8 4
♦ K Q 8 6 3
♣ Q

YOU open 1♦, and 'reverse' with 2♥ after partner's 1♠ response. What do you bid next when partner responds 3♦, and would it make any difference if his response was 2NT?

WHAT do you know about partner's hand? He has at least four spades and, in the first instance, has positive preference for diamonds to hearts. And, in the second instance, has at least one stop in clubs (the unbid suit).

In both cases, you should bid 3♠, which is unconditionally forcing, and describes your 3-4-5-1 distribution perfectly. Partner's support for your suit does not deny a five-card spade suit, and he will know that you don't have four-card support for spades or you would have raised him directly.

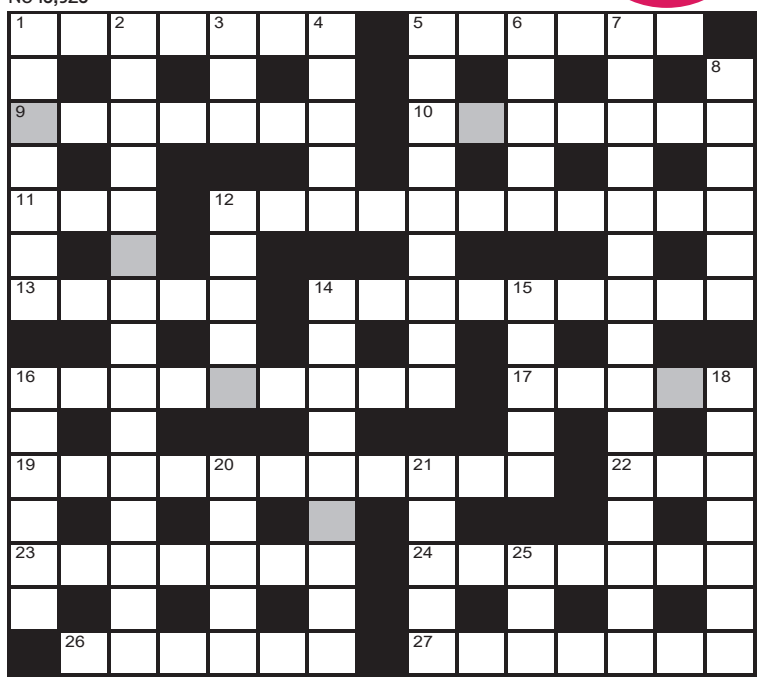
These situations look very simple when explained in print. Yet, a very experienced player opted to bid 4♦ on this hand at the table!

PETER DONOVAN

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

WIN £500

No 16,926



FOR your chance to win, solve the crossword to reveal the word reading down the shaded boxes. **HOW TO ENTER:** Call **0901 293 6233** and leave today's answer and your details, or **TEXT 65700** with the word **CRYPTIC**, your answer and your name. Texts and calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. Or enter by post by sending completed crossword to Daily Mail Prize Crossword 16,926, PO Box 28, Colchester, Essex CO2 8GF. Please include your name and address. One weekly winner chosen from all correct daily entries received between 00.01 Monday and 23.59 Friday. Postal entries must be date-stamped no later than the following day to qualify. Calls/texts must be received by 23.59; answers change at 00.01. UK residents aged 18+, excl NI. Terms apply, see Page 64.

ACROSS

1 Sport more stripes than our tank displayed? (7)
5 Suddenly attack with submarine group heading west (6)
9 Deport terribly old potentially lethal fish (7)
10 Considered putting hotel in rowdy end of street (7)
11 Primarily black or white neckwear (3)
12 Small medic grabs silly old doctor going round buffet (11)
13 Learn about dealing with organs (5)
14 Lady mistakenly hugs a male colonist with conviction (9)
16 Indian prince's mother briefly has a drink back at hotel (9)
17 Batch of these eggs revolting their producers? (5)
19 Erratic vote possibly taking effect earlier (11)
22 Become indebted to unnamed Welshman (3)
23 Stay after this country turned back current Gulf citizen (7)
24 More costly drink limits northern recovery (7)
26 Arm guard and record holder (6)
27 Fear a cheerleader suppressing this problem with listener? (7)

DOWN

1 Objector rudely ignoring judge gets over four weeks (7)
2 Who went to Hitler foolishly to concede victory? (5,2,3,5)
3 Dismiss ten in A&E (3)
4 Characters from Tokyo annoyed city not far off (5)
5 Sign gold harp got damaged (9)
6 They prescribe waders perhaps (5)
7 Cash gifted in zoo relocated Leo for one (4,2,3,6)
8 Dull dirty place housing wild dog (6)
12 Local star's also arranged to meet royal (5)
14 It describes plane over Cuba in a steep descent (9)
15 Invader's viewpoint (5)
16 Book car for unit in Helsinki once (6)
18 Prepare green peas as neglected centrepiece of meal (7)
20 Leather doesn't include hard chemical compound (5)
21 Season that is inspiring northbound race (5)
25 Address father briefly (3)

NEED A CLUE? Text **TIP** to **65700** to receive FOUR answers to today's crossword, or call **0901 293 6236**. Texts and calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. Today's clues available between 00.01 today and 23.30 only.

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

www.30secondchallenge.com

START on left with number given and follow instructions as you go across. In 30 seconds, beginners have to complete their own challenge; intermediates have to complete their own challenge and the beginner's; advanced players have to complete their own challenge and the intermediate's. SOLUTION BELOW

											YOUR ANSWERS
Beginner	95	+10	÷5	+7	÷4	×11	+4	÷9	×7	-19	
Intermediate	83	-26	2/19 OF IT	TIMES ITSELF	×125	3/100 OF IT	5/9 OF IT	4/15 OF IT	TIMES ITSELF	5/16 OF IT	
Advanced	56	+29	5/17 OF IT	TIMES ITSELF	LESS 20%	1/40 OF IT	×24	LESS 10%	×1½	2/9 OF IT	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLES

SUDOKU

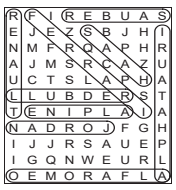
3	2	8	9	6	1	4	7	5
6	4	9	2	5	7	1	3	8
5	7	1	3	8	4	9	6	2
1	3	6	8	2	9	5	4	7
7	9	5	4	1	3	8	2	6
4	8	2	5	7	6	3	9	1
2	6	3	1	4	5	7	8	9
8	1	4	7	9	2	6	5	3
9	5	7	6	3	8	2	1	4

6	2	3	5	1	9	4	7	8
9	1	8	4	6	7	2	3	5
7	4	5	8	2	3	6	1	9
2	9	4	3	7	5	1	8	6
8	7	6	2	4	1	5	9	3
5	3	1	6	9	8	7	2	4
1	5	2	9	3	6	8	4	7
4	6	9	7	8	2	3	5	1
3	8	7	1	5	4	9	6	2

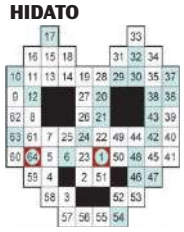
PRIZE SUDOKU

5	9	8	4	2	7	3	6	1
1	2	4	6	3	9	8	7	5
7	3	6	1	5	8	4	9	2
9	5	3	8	1	4	7	2	6
6	4	2	9	7	3	1	5	8
8	7	1	2	6	5	9	3	4
3	1	7	5	8	2	6	4	9
4	8	5	3	9	6	2	1	7
2	6	9	7	4	1	5	8	3

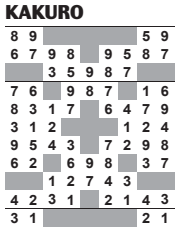
WORD SEARCH
Missing: MERCEDES



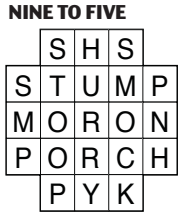
HIDATO



KAKURO

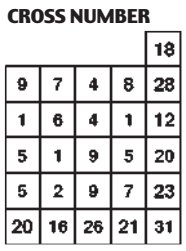


NINE TO FIVE

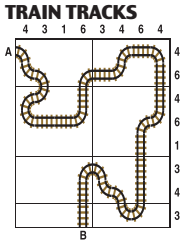


COURTROOM

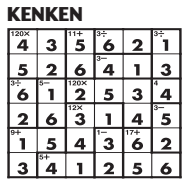
CROSS NUMBER



TRAIN TRACKS



KENKEN



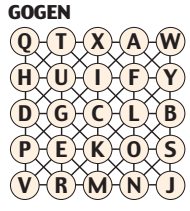
SUDOKU X

5	4	2	1	6	3
3	6	1	2	4	5
4	1	3	5	2	6
2	5	6	4	3	1
6	2	5	3	1	4
1	3	4	6	5	2

KILLER SUDOKU

6	5	3	9	4	2	8	1	7
9	4	1	3	8	7	2	6	5
7	2	8	1	6	5	3	9	4
1	7	6	5	3	8	4	2	9
2	3	9	7	1	4	5	8	6
5	8	4	2	9	6	7	3	1
8	6	7	4	2	9	1	5	3
3	9	5	8	7	1	6	4	2
4	1	2	6	5	3	9	7	8

GOGEN



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD No. 16,923

ACROSS: 6 Unconventional. 9 Blotto. 10 Throttle. 11 Offstage. 13 Iodine. 15 Snooze. 17 Oyster. 19 Kidnap. 20 Aphorism. 22 Anathema. 24 Simile. 26 Identification.
DOWN: 1 Fully fashioned. 2 Scot. 3 Angora. 4 Eternity. 5 Post. 7 Esteem. 8 All-in wrestling. 12 Shorn. 14 Deter. 16 Zeppelin. 18 Safari. 21 Hussar. 23 Tang. 25 Main.

MAILWORD

ACROSS: 1 Flew. 5 Milk. 9 Grope. 10 Etui. 11 Origin. 12 Tern. 13 Won. 14 Scheme. 16 Lug. 17 Ohio. 18 Spend. 20 Prose. 24 Ails. 26 Cob. 27 Tomcat. 29 Cub. 30 Male. 31 Rebuts. 33 Opal. 34 Graph. 35 Defy. 36 Espy.
DOWN: 1 Fringe. 2 Log. 3 Episodic. 4 Wench. 5 Meteor. 6 Item. 7 Lure. 8 Kin. 9 Group. 11 Owls. 15 Hipsters. 19 Namely. 21 Occupy. 22 South. 23 Ebbs. 25 Large. 27 Tape. 28 Olaf. 30 Mod. 32 Bap.*

SMALLEST, HARDEST CROSSWORD — ACROSS: 1 Knag. **5 Ugh.** 6 Oka. 7 Herd. **DOWN:** 2 Nuke. 3 Agar. 4 GH. 6 Oh.

SOLUTIONS TO TODAY'S PUZZLES

QUICK QUIZ: 1 Ipswich Town. 2 Butcher. 3 Monkey Wrench. 4 Hertz. 5 Greenpeace.

MINDBENDER: 1 Six, seven and eight. 2 They may all precede iron. 3 Rupert Murdoch. 4 The Wrath Of Khan, a Star Trek film; the others are Star Wars films. 5 Cut. Cutlass, scuttle, acutely, prosecute.

MASTERQUIZ: 1 Hungary. 2 Judges. 3 Beetle. 4 Finland. 5 Pier Paolo Pasolini. 6 Sunday school.

HONEYCOMB: 1 Oceans. 2 Centre. 3 Terror. 4 Render. 5 Dapple. 6 Pick-up. 7 Kung fu. 8 Naming. 9 Nickel. 10 Kettle. 11 Thrall. 12 Snarls.

KUROSU:

X	O	O	X	O	X
X	O	X	O	X	O
O	X	O	X	O	X
X	O	X	X	O	O
O	X	X	O	X	O
O	X	O	O	X	X

30-SECOND CHALLENGE: Beginner: 44. Intermediate: 125. Advanced: 90.

WORD WHEEL: fagin, fain, faint, fang, fate, fating, fatten, **fattening**, fatting, feat, feign, feint, feta, feting, fiat, fine, gift, infant, infante, naif.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD — ACROSS: 1 Forward planning. 8 Ellipse. 9 Horatio. 10 Évian. 11 Sans serif. 12 Scorpio. 14 Comet. 15 Kevin. 17 Retreat. 19 Spelbound. 22 Cairn. 23 Tenancy. 24 Tensile. 25 Numismatologist. **DOWN:** 1 Frederick Ashton. 2 Rallies. 3 Alpenhorn. 4 Dregs. 5 Norns. 6 Interim. 7 Go off at a tangent. 9 Handout. 13 Perjury. 14 Crescendo. 16 Vietnam. 8 Tbilisi. 20 Banks. 21 Ditto.

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